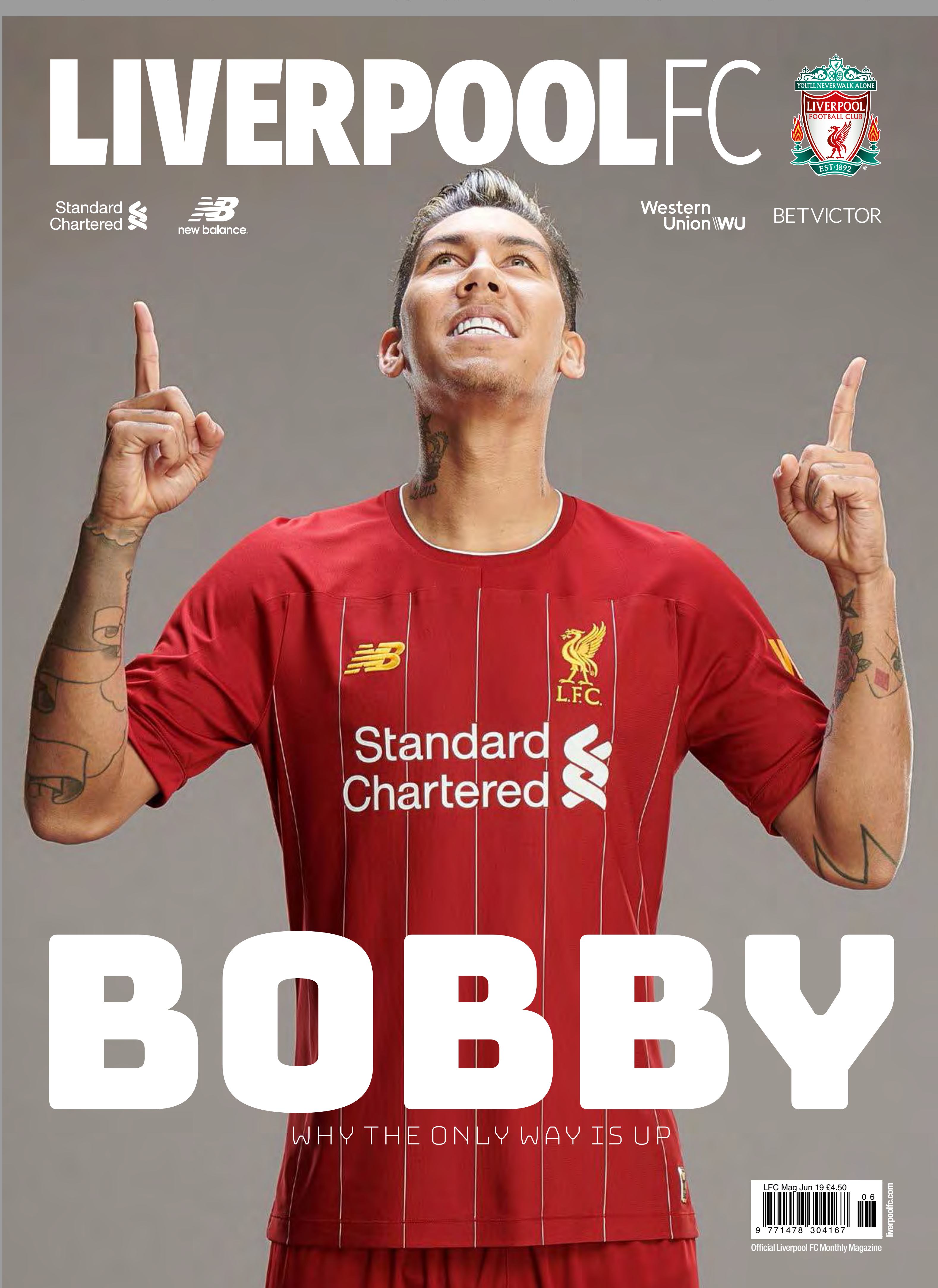
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ENTER THE OX

Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain is a study in focus as he waits in the tunnel with team-mates ahead of the Premier League fixture with Huddersfield Town. He entered the fray as a second-half substitute to rapturous applause at Anfield – welcome back!

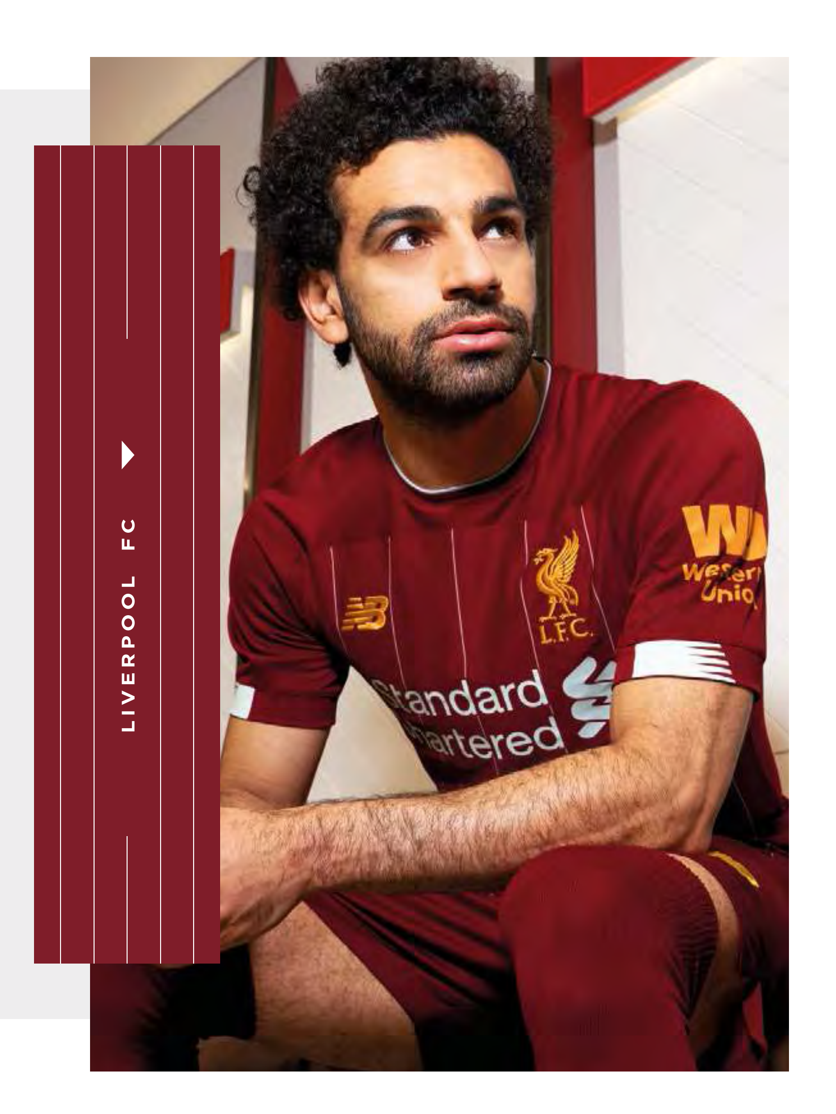




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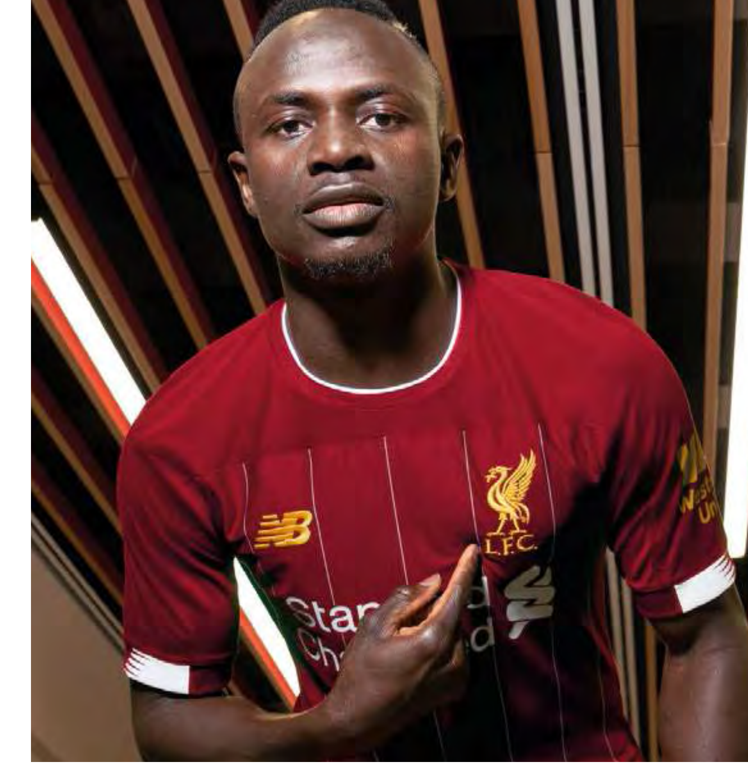
The ball's bouncing into the net as Mo Salah scores the first of two against Huddersfield which see him become only the third Liverpool player to pass 20 or more Premier League goals in consecutive seasons for the club, alongside Robbie Fowler (1994/95 and 95/96) and Luis Suarez (2012/13 and 13/14).


Standard Char



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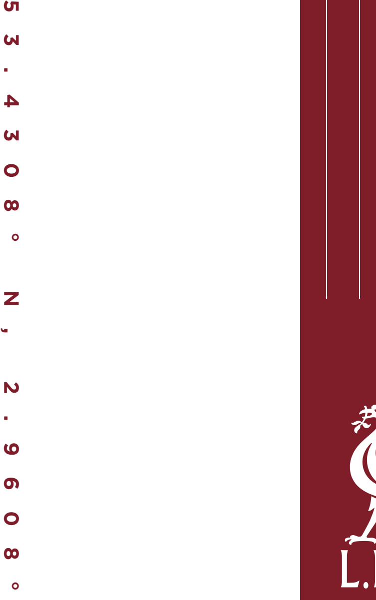
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"If you are only motivated to win the Holy Grail, then something is wrong with you. We want to win football games because we enjoy the ride with the fans."


JR
18
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WE BELIEVE

However 2018/19 ends, Bobby Firmino says this exciting Liverpool team will only go from strength to strength

FIGHTING ON TWO FRONTS FOR LIVERPOOL

It's all very exciting but there's pressure too. It really motivates me. It's motivating to be still fighting to win two competitions: both the Premier League and the Champions League. We've got a chance to win both of them and while we're still in with a shout, we'll fight until the very end. We're giving our all and winning games, and that's what counts.

Being at a club like Liverpool your aim is always to win. Because of the club's reputation and stature, its aim is always to win trophies. We're in with a chance of winning two and that's what we're trying to do – to give our all and see what happens.

While we're in with a shot of winning both, we'll be fighting for that. To carry on working hard with both competitions in mind is really important for us.

WHAT WE'RE ABOUT

Our team qualities are great and they are possibly as good as they can be. Everyone in the squad is focused on one objective: to give their all for the club, to win trophies and now we're fighting to win two huge competitions.

There's nothing better than fighting to win silverware. Winning is extremely important to give our team more belief that we can keep winning more games.

HOPE IN OUR HEARTS

I try not to let pressure get to me. I have to keep my head clear and just think about the games and focus on the moments at hand. This has to be the same for the whole team. We need to focus on our objectives and leave everything else to one side.

When I'm walking on the street, people are always talking about us winning matches and winning the title. It would be incredible for us players, for the club and for the fans, too. We're fighting for this and we'll fight until the final game which will decide everything. We're fighting for our club and our fans and I hope it goes well.

We're working really hard, we're playing really well and going into May we were unbeaten in 19 games, so we'll see what happens.




RESPECT



FATHER FIGURE

Both on and off the pitch, Jürgen is like a father to me. I've known him from back when I played in the Bundesliga and he's improved both myself and the squad as a whole under his tutelage. The results are really good and we're fighting to win trophies.

He is known for hugging us at the end of games after a good performance and I didn't know about this side to him before I worked with him, but I have got to know it since he came to the club! I think it's great and it shows how passionate he is and what a 'godfather' figure he is.

He came to Liverpool in the October of 2015 and I'd joined the club in July. When I heard that he was coming I was really happy because I'd played against his Borussia Dortmund side when he was in charge of them and I knew he had a good relationship with the German game. You can see the friendship he has with the squad.

He's a great coach and I'd say he's the perfect coach for me. I'm really happy to be working with him. He took to me and he's helped me, both tactically and on the pitch in every sense. For both myself and the club, it's been great.

We've only got better and gone from strength to strength. We've improved every day and season upon season. This is evident in all the statistics. We're fighting for trophies and have reached the latter stages of the Champions League in the past two seasons, so the results are there for all to see.



THE MANE MAN

Sadio has had a great season and scored his highest tally of goals. When Mo wasn't scoring, Sadio was and it's always good when this happens – when one player isn't scoring another makes up for it and helps the team.

They are players who are always helping us even if they're not scoring – giving their all so that we can keep winning.



SALAH'S SCORING

I was really happy that Mo scored that important goal at Southampton [to end a run of eight games without a goal]. He thought about passing but I dragged the defender away with my run and he got the chance to take a shot. It was an important moment in the game as it was the decisive goal. I knew it would help him moving forward as it gave him confidence.

It was the perfect time for him to get back scoring, to get his belief back and he then scored important goals against Chelsea and Porto too. He's been great at helping our team, both in the Champions League and in the Premier League and will be very important in our remaining games too.

TREBLE SHOOTER

The Arsenal game at Anfield just after Christmas was a special day for me because I scored the first hat trick of my career and I was able to help my team-mates win the game. It was tough because we were losing 1-0 but then we turned the game around and ended up winning 5-1. I was really happy to have helped the team and, of course, it was a great game all-round.

CELEBRATION TIME

Sometimes I plan my goal celebrations. I see some videos online and I practice them. There's a dance move from a Brazilian song that's current at the moment. On other occasions that's not the case, it's totally spontaneous and I do something crazy which just comes out of me and even I myself don't understand it!

I always like to be dancing and celebrating goals and wins. I just want to make the most of the moment and celebrate what I've done. I really liked taking my shirt off when I celebrated goals and it's one of my favourite celebrations – I always used to do that, but now you usually get booked.

I always like to help my team out by scoring and providing assists. These things make me really happy. In Brazil when players assist others it is always valued. The goalscorer should always congratulate the player who passed to him, because half of the credit for the goal should go to him. It's something that happens in Brazil that I want to bring to the game here.



LIVERPOOL'S PREMIER LEAGUE NO9S

Andy Carroll 44 PL games 6 goals (2011-12)
Christian Benteke 29 PL games 9 goals (2015/16)
Djibril Cisse 49 PL games 13 goals (2004-06)
El Hadji Diouf 55 PL games 3 goals (2002-04)
Fernando Torres 102 PL games 65 goals (2007-11)
Iago Aspas 14 PL games 0 goals (2013/14)
Ian Rush 130 PL games 45 goals (1992-96)
Nicolas Anelka 20 PL games 4 goals (2001/02)
Rickie Lambert 25 PL games 2 goals (2014/15)
Robbie Fowler 266 PL games 128 goals (1993-2002 and 2006-07)
Roberto Firmino 137 PL games 48 goals* (2015-present)
* Up to and including 25 April 2019





THREE OF A KIND

As a front-three we've improved in the time we've been together, and we've shown this on the pitch by winning games. As we're training and working hard together every day, the three of us become more confident, along with the rest of the team. This all comes from hard work day in, day out.

We've been together for nearly three years now and we're improving every day, in training and in games. After this time, we know each other inside-out. You can see it in our performances and I hope we can carry on improving through our hard work.

FROM MADRID TO... MADRID?

Losing to Real Madrid in last season's Champions League final served as a lesson to us. You always learn from victories, but you learn more from defeats. It was a really big lesson that has helped us prepare for this season. It's made us better prepared and put us in a stronger position to win games and give our all. It's made us more experienced and mentally stronger.

We lost against Real Madrid in that final but I hope it's made us more prepared for the games against Barcelona as we hope to return to the final this season.

PROGRESS REPORT

I think it's true that my game has improved since I came to Liverpool. I've developed a lot, both in my defending and attacking. I knew what I wanted to achieve moving forward and everything has gone well. I have worked hard and reaped the rewards and I'm still doing so.

SI SEÑOR

I think the song the Liverpool fans have for me is great. I love it and I always listen to it when the fans sing it. It motivates me more when I'm on the pitch because I think about my family and stuff in general besides and I also think about winning the games. I think it is amazing!



There's something that the Kop want you to know,
The best in the world is Bobby Firmino,
Our number nine
Give him the ball and he'll score every time
Si señor
Give the ball to Bobby and he will score



He’s our number eight

Virgil van Dijk’s stellar season was recognised by his peers when he became the eighth Liverpool player to win the PFA Player of the Year award. Throughout this magazine we will feature the Reds’ previous seven. “To win this award, voted by all the players you play against week in, week out, is fantastic,” he said. “I think it’s the highest honour you can get. I’m really proud.”

TALKING POINTS

Statistically the Reds are enjoying one of their best-ever seasons in a 38-game top-flight league campaign, averaging 2.5 points per game by April. Adjusted for three-points-for-win, these are LFC's previous best campaigns by this measure...

1978/79 SEASON: 2.33 points per game (98 from 42)

HOW THEY DID IT: Liverpool swept to an eleventh league title by playing some of the best football ever seen at Anfield and breaking several records in the process. The European champions tore into the season, winning their opening six including the famous 7-0 thrashing of Spurs, and were never truly challenged.

The side racked up 85 goals in total, conceded a measly, record-setting 16 goals at the other end, and finished the campaign on 68 points – a Football League record under the old two-points-for-a-win system.

There was disappointment in Europe and the FA Cup with defeats to Nottingham Forest and Manchester United respectively, but the top-flight title was a one-horse race all the way.

"I am tempted to say that team was the best I ever played in," commented midfielder Graeme Souness, and many Liverpudlians share the view that of the 18 title-winning teams to date, the class of 78/79 was the best of the lot.

IN CHARGE: Bob Paisley. The Reds clinched the title on Tuesday 8 May 1979 with a 3-0 win over Aston Villa at Anfield, and after the game the club's directors made a presentation to Bob in honour of 40 years' service.

"Happy birthday Bob Paisley!" sang the Kop, but the man who had just guided the Reds to a third title in four seasons was typically modest about all the fuss. "I was worried the publicity about my 40th anniversary would affect the players' concentration," he said at full-time before adding, "They've won it – not me."



To a chorus of "We're not going home till he comes!" ringing round the Kop, the boss re-emerged from the tunnel to an ear-splitting reception from the fans.

UNSUNG HERO: Ray Clemence. Forward Kenny Dalglish was named as the Football Writers footballer of the year but it was keeper Clem who had a record-breaking season.

The ever-present goalie conceded just 16 goals in the league all season to ensure Liverpool beat the previous record of 24 shared between themselves and Nottingham Forest. The Reds also smashed Southampton's record of 21 league goals-against in a 42-game season (set in Division Three South in 1922) with Clemence beaten just four times at Anfield in 21 matches and keeping 28 clean-sheets (another record) in total.

In 2004/05 Chelsea beat Liverpool's 78/79 record by conceding only 15 goals but they played four less games.

TOP SCORER: Kenny Dalglish. After netting 20 league goals in his first season here, King Kenny went one better in 78/79 by finding the target 21 times.

That tally represented his best scoring return in the league but it wasn't just Dalglish who got the goals, with eleven of the 15 players used that season all contributing. David Johnson netted 16, Ray Kennedy weighed in with ten and Graeme Souness, Jimmy Case and Terry McDermott scored 23 between them.

BEST GAME: 7-0 v Tottenham Hotspur. On the day when Terry McDermott told *Football Echo* readers that the best goal of his career was a

SEVEN-GOAL ROMP BY SUPER REDS

★ Kenny Dalglish unleashes a power drive but the Spurs goalkeeper makes a fine save.

Liverpool 7, Spurs 0

by Michael Charters

LIVERPOOL added a flow of goals to a display of superlative football against outclassed Spurs at Anfield this afternoon. They were six up in just over an hour and the quality of their display could hardly have been better. It was a memorable occasion.

LINE-UP

LIVERPOOL: Clemence; Neal, Alan Kennedy; Thompson, Ray Kennedy, Hughes; Dalglish, Case, Heighway, McDermott, Souness. Sub.: Johnson.
TOTTENHAM: Daines; McAllister, Naylor, Hoddle, Lacy, Perryman, Villa, Ardiles, Taylor, Duncan, McNabb. Sub.: Armstrong.

25-yard volley for Newcastle in a testimonial at Bury, the Liverpool midfielder scored what most Kopites believe is the greatest ever seen at Anfield.

Ray Kennedy headed clear on the edge of the Reds box, Kenny Dalglish instantly passed to David Johnson in the centre-circle and he swept a diagonal ball out to the left wing where Steve Heighway was charging forward. The winger met the ball on the run and whipped in a first-time cross to the far-post where Terry Mac, who'd run from one end of the pitch to the other, powered a header home.

In eight seconds a goal had been scored that represented the club's dominance of the decade and the ethos that Bill Shankly had brought to the club. The fact that it was the seventh against a talented Tottenham team featuring 1978 World Cup winners Ossie Ardiles and Ricky Villa made it more special.

"This display confirmed for me, particularly after the splendour of their wins at Ipswich and City the previous week, that the current Liverpool team is playing better, more exciting, attacking football than any side I've seen since the war," wrote *Echo* man Michael Charters. The 50,705 inside Anfield that day were in agreement.

1987/88 SEASON: 2.25 points per game (90 from 40)

HOW THEY DID IT: Kenny Dalglish's new-look Liverpool were dubbed 'better than the Brazilians' after blasting their way to league title no17 with some of the most exhilarating football ever seen at Anfield.

A collapsed Victorian sewer under the Spion Kop meant the Reds faced a tough start to the campaign by playing their first three games away from home, but they beat Arsenal 2-1 at Highbury on the opening day, in a flashy new silver/grey kit, and never looked back, losing just two league games all season – a club record.

Liverpool went on a Football League record-equalling 29-game unbeaten run from the start of the season and by the end of January were 17 points clear at the top with a game-in-hand on joint-second Nottingham Forest and Manchester United.

The title was wrapped up on Saturday 23 April – with four games left to play – and although the season ended with a shock FA Cup final defeat to Wimbledon, the scintillating football Dalglish's team played in 87/88 is regarded by many Kopites as the best any title-winning Liverpool side have ever produced.



IN CHARGE: Kenny Dalglish. When he won the Double as player-manager in 1986 some critics pointed out that Kenny had only signed Steve McMahon and suggested it was Joe Fagan's team that had made history.

They could do nothing of the sort in 1988 as he brought John Aldridge, John Barnes, Peter Beardsley, Ray Houghton and Nigel Spackman into a Liverpool team that blew the rest of the league away.

Not bad considering he'd lost Ian Rush to Juventus in the summer and limited Liverpool's greatest-ever player – himself – to a three-minute cameo appearance against Wimbledon and a quarter-hour against Luton after the title had been won.



Hands off Blue boys Page 35

DAILY POST SPORT

Famous five!

Devastating Reds romp it

Kenny's jumping for joy

UNSUNG HERO: Steve McMahon. While John Barnes was rightly named as both PFA and FWA player of the year, in the Liverpool engine-room McMahon was superbly consistent all season.

Liverpool's attacking trio of Barnes, Beardsley and Aldridge got the headlines, but Macca was the driving force behind the runaway title success and even scored nine league goals himself – his best return for the Reds.

He also earned his first cap for England although it had nothing to do with the line According to the club's FA Cup final song, *The Anfield Rap*: 'Well Steve McMahon sure can rap, it's about time he had an England cap'. He did too, making his international debut in February 1988.

TOP SCORER: John Aldridge. Replacing Liverpool legend Ian Rush seemed like an impossible task. Not only did Aldo do so, he achieved something Rushie never had by scoring in each of the first nine league matches which, when added to his goal against Chelsea on the last day of 1986/87, set a new Football League record.

Dalglish's plan to build a team to play to Aldridge's strengths – with Barnes and Houghton supplying the crosses and Beardsley the clever through-balls – paid off spectacularly as the Kopite-turned-hero scored 26 league goals, 29 in total.

BEST GAME: 5-0 v Nottingham Forest. "It was the finest exhibition I've seen the whole time I've played and watched the game. You couldn't see it bettered anywhere – not even in Brazil."

Sir Tom Finney couldn't hide his admiration for Liverpool after their 5-0 win over Brian Clough's stunned Forest and well may it be recalled as the club's best home performance of the lot.

John Aldridge (with two), Ray Houghton, Peter Beardsley and Gary Gillespie got the goals but the 5-0 scoreline wasn't a fair reflection on just how dominant Liverpool were against a team that finished third in the table, had beaten the Reds at the City Ground eleven days earlier and had only lost an FA Cup semi-final 2-1 to Dalglish's team on the Saturday.

Only the woodwork and Forest keeper Steve Sutton, who produced at least a dozen good saves (three from Beardsley alone were world-class) kept the score down while Aldridge and Houghton also missed sitters.

"That's certainly the best we've played since I've been here," said Dalglish. "It would be nice to think we could get even better." Forest chairman Maurice Rowarth was also full of praise: "They were superb. We were up against the best team in Europe and that's why they are not in Europe – they are too good."





1985/86 SEASON: 2.10 points per game (88 from 42)

After eleven games of the season Kenny Dalglish's Liverpool were ten points behind runaway leaders Manchester United who'd won their opening 10 in a row and looked set to end their 19-year wait for a title.

But as the Red Devils fell away, Liverpool started to pick up and knew that a win in the Anfield derby on 22 February would out them two points behind joint-top United and Everton. The Blues won, though, to go eight points clear and leave skipper Alan Hansen telling his manager that this was the "most limited Liverpool team" he'd played in.

A 2-1 win at Tottenham the following week turned things around and set Liverpool on an amazing run of 12 wins and one draw from their last 13 which saw them pip Everton to the silverware thanks to that famous, Dalglish-inspired 1-0 win at Chelsea on the last day of the season.

IN CHARGE: Kenny Dalglish. It was somewhat of a surprise when it was announced that Kenny was replacing the retiring Joe Fagan as Liverpool's first-ever player-manager but less of a shock that he led the club to success.

Dalglish phased out some of the old guard in 85/86 – Phil Neal and Alan Kennedy were replaced by Steve Nicol and Jim Beglin – and regularly omitted himself for Paul Walsh, with Steve McMahon the only new arrival.

After a tough first half of the season his side came good and by the end of the campaign Liverpool were double-winners with the new boss named as Manager of the Year.

UNSUNG HERO: Jan Molby. The great Dane had what was probably his best season for Liverpool, scoring an impressive 21 goals, 14 of them in the league, and creating many others.

His ten successful penalties undoubtedly played a part in his goal-tally but so did Dalglish's tactical use of Molby as a sweeper in certain games. It allowed the Danish international scope to get forward and space to get the most out of his shining talent – an ability to spray passes around the pitch.

TOP SCORER: Ian Rush. Once again the Welshman was the goalscoring machine behind a Liverpool title win, netting 22 times in the league and 33 in total with his two FA Cup final goals against Everton the most memorable.

Rush scored a record 346 goals for Liverpool but only three of them were penalties with the second game of this season – a 2-2 draw at Aston Villa – significant on that front. He saw his 88th-minute spot-kick saved by Nigel Spink and even though it was the first he'd ever missed for Liverpool, he only ever took one other penalty for the club – which he missed against Charlton in 1989 – with Jan Molby taking over the responsibility from 12 yards out.

BEST GAME: 1-0 v Chelsea. Not even Roy of the Rovers would come up with a storyline like this. In his first season in charge, 35-year-old player-manager Kenny Dalglish scored the goal that won his side the title.

With 23 minutes on the clock, Jim Beglin flicked the ball on to Dalglish who controlled it brilliantly on his chest and sent a right-footed volley with the outside of his boot into the far corner. It was enough to secure title no16, send the travelling Kopites inside Stamford Bridge into ecstasy and silence Chelsea chairman Ken Bates who'd written in the matchday programme: "Liverpool will win the Championship over my dead body."

Kenny modestly played down his winner in typical fashion: "It could easily have gone in the enclosure." The title could easily have gone to Goodison Park again if it wasn't for him.





1965/66 SEASON: 2.07 points per game (87 from 42)

HOW THEY DID IT: Liverpool claimed their second top-flight title in three seasons and the trophy was secured in convincing fashion.

After three points from the opening three games the Reds won 13 of their next 18 league games, scoring 46 goals in the progress, and were top of the table from November. A Christmas defeat at home to Leeds United gave the eventual runners-up hope, but 24 hours later Liverpool won at Elland Road and never looked back.

The team needed just a point from their final two games of the season to clinch the trophy and did so with a 2-0 win at home to Chelsea, whose players had formed a guard-of-honour to applaud the champions-elect on to the pitch.

The title was Liverpool's seventh at the time, putting the club level with record-holders Arsenal.

IN CHARGE: Bill Shankly. His side hit their peak in 65/66 and this title win was based on a mixture of ability, strength, fitness and teamwork.

No significant signings were made in the summer and the team picked itself with Liverpool using just 14 players all season. With Alf Arrowsmith and Bobby Graham playing just six league games between them, Shanks would famously announce he was picking "the same team as last year." Given the title win and an appearance in the European Cup Winners' Cup final, who could blame him?

UNSUNG HERO: Tommy Smith. Moved to centre-half the previous season, the 'Anfield Iron' formed a formidable partnership with skipper Ron Yeats, which proved to be the cornerstone of the championship success.

Liverpool had the best defence in the league and Smith was at his robust best, particularly in the crucial 1-0 win over runners-up Leeds at Elland Road on 28

December when he came out on top in a fierce battle against Billy Bremner.

Smithy also netted three league goals including Liverpool's first of 1966 on New Year's Day at home to Manchester United – always a good way to start a year!

TOP SCORER: Roger Hunt. It will come as no surprise to discover that 'Sir' Roger was Liverpool's leading goalscorer, something he achieved eight years in a row between 1962 and 1969.

His strike-ratio of 30 goals in 37 appearances in 1964/65 was his best average in the top flight and Liverpool rewarded the striker with a new five-year contract that summer. Indeed the summer of 1966 was truly memorable for Hunt as he became the first and only man to win the World Cup as a Liverpool player, scoring three times in six appearances as England landed the Jules Rimet trophy.

BEST GAME: 5-0 v Everton. "On this form I don't think there's a team in the land to hold Liverpool," wrote Michael Charters in the *Echo* after this derby-day thrashing in which the Reds played some scintillating football.

Before the game Shankly told assistant-coach Bob Paisley, in earshot of his players, that he'd been watching Everton train from his Bellefield home and that "they'll be knackered on Saturday" because they were doing too much. A classic example of his famous psychology!

Some kids ran on to the pitch from the Kop before

Liverpool Echo and Evening Express

EE-AYE-ADDIO THEY'RE THE CHAMPIONS AGAIN

Full House Sees Reds Clinch League Title

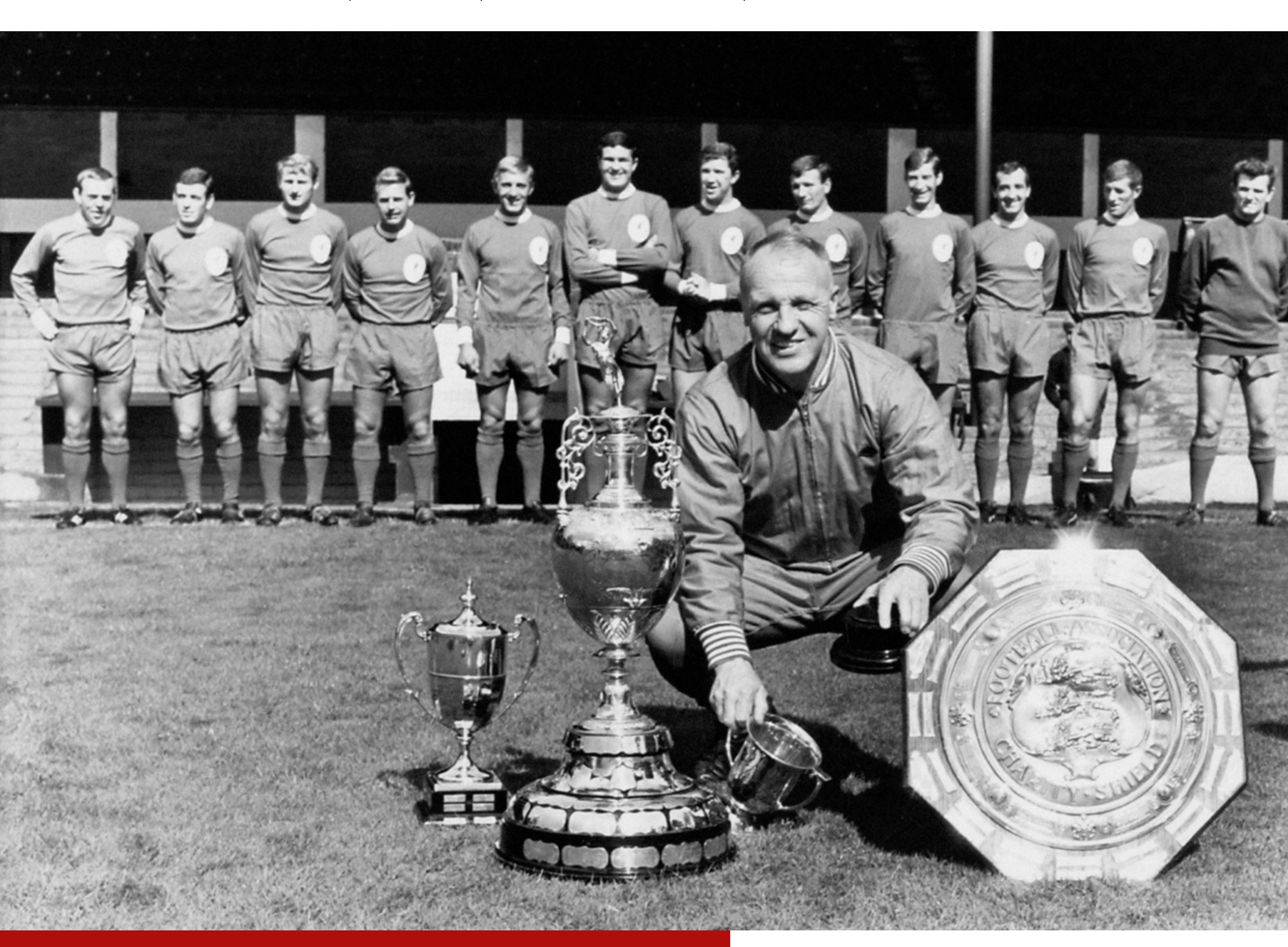
Today's Football SCOREBOARD

kick-off with a life-sized cut-out of a saint with a halo to show their adoration for Ian St John and appropriately it was the Scot who completed the 5-0 rout with an 89th-minute header from an Ian Callaghan cross.

Tommy Smith scored the only goal of the first half with a header but the Blues were fortunate to go into the interval just 1-0 down with keeper Gordon West working over-time and producing some top-class saves.

But once Roger Hunt had clipped a shot past the Everton keeper from a tight angle, the dam burst with a beautifully-floated effort from Willie Stevenson and a second from Sir Roger leaving Kopites chanting "We want five!"

They got it through St John, although by then most of the Evertonians in the Anfield Road end had long since departed.





Suits you, Sir

Last season Mo Salah was rewarded for his incredible first impact at Anfield by being named top man by his fellow pros. "It's an honour and especially as it's voted by the players. I am happy and proud," the Egyptian said. "I didn't have my chance at Chelsea. It was clear I would return and show everyone my football. I think I came back a different person, man and player."



ULTIMATE LFC GOALKEEPERS QUIZ

Thirty questions about the men between the sticks – can you pull off a worldie by answering them all?


L.F.C.
WU
Western Union

THE GLOVES ARE OFF...

1. Whom did Alisson deny in one-in-one situations on Saturday 29 September 2018 and Sunday 14 April 2019?

2. Who recently said this about Simon Mignolet: "It's incredible how he is around the training ground – he has the best attitude I've ever seen in my life"?

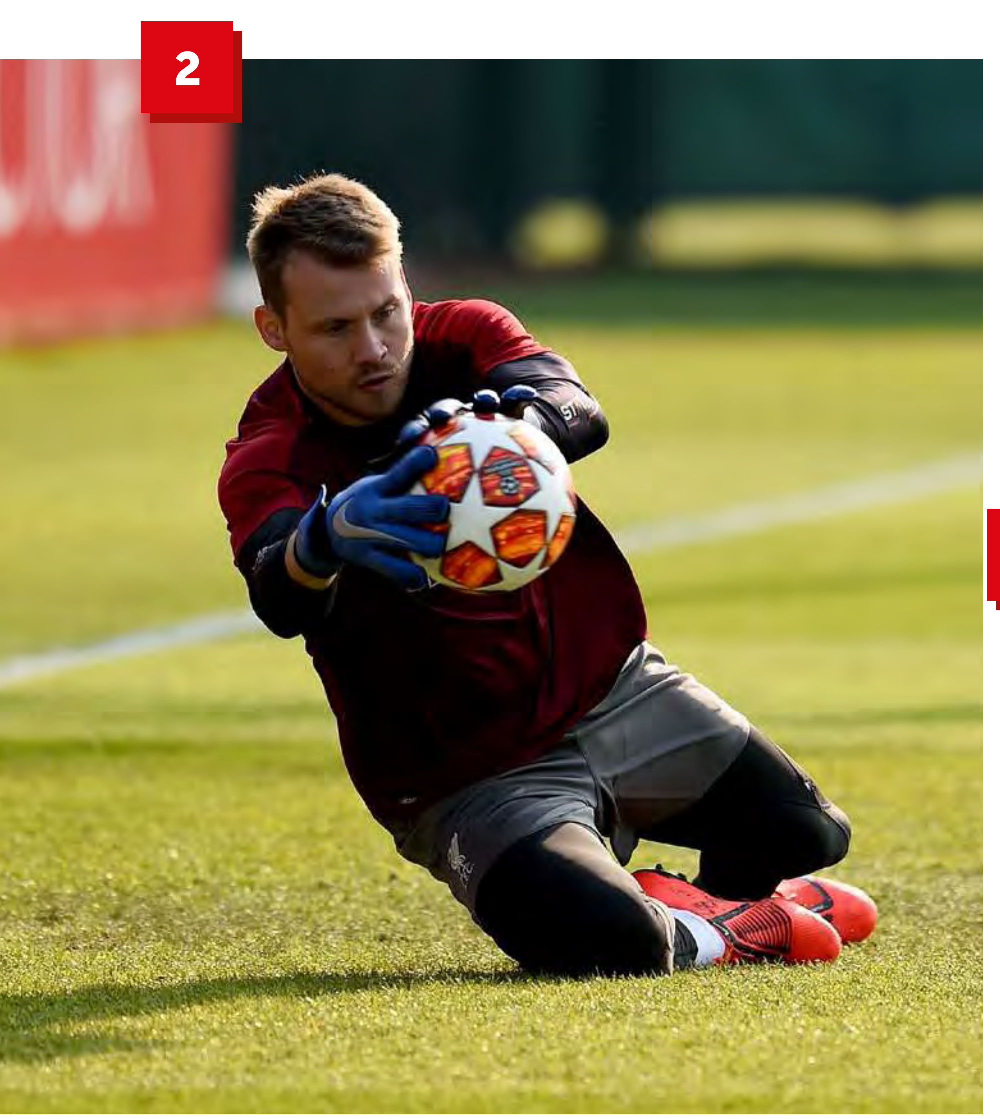
3. Loris Karius is currently on a two-season loan at which Turkish club?

4. How many years elapsed between Gianluigi Buffon's first appearance in goal against Liverpool and his most recent?

1



2



3



5



5. What nationality is Liverpool's FA Youth Cup-winning keeper Vitezslav Jaros?

6. Who are the two goalkeeping coaches with the Reds' first-team squad?

7. For which club does ex-Reds keeper Scott Carson currently keep goal?

8. How many Premier League Golden Gloves awards did Pepe Reina win during his spell at Anfield, for keeping most shut-outs in a season?

7



4



8





9. Which former Reds keeper served as caretaker-manager of Liverpool FC Women earlier this season?

10. "Yes – I played in it!" When the late, great Tommy Lawrence said this to a BBC local-news reporter on the streets of Liverpool in January 2018, which game was he referring to?

11. When Alisson made a late flying save against Burnley at Turf Moor last December he then launched the counterattack that led to whose game-settling goal?

12. Which two left-backs have taken over as emergency keepers for Liverpool in Premier League matches?



10





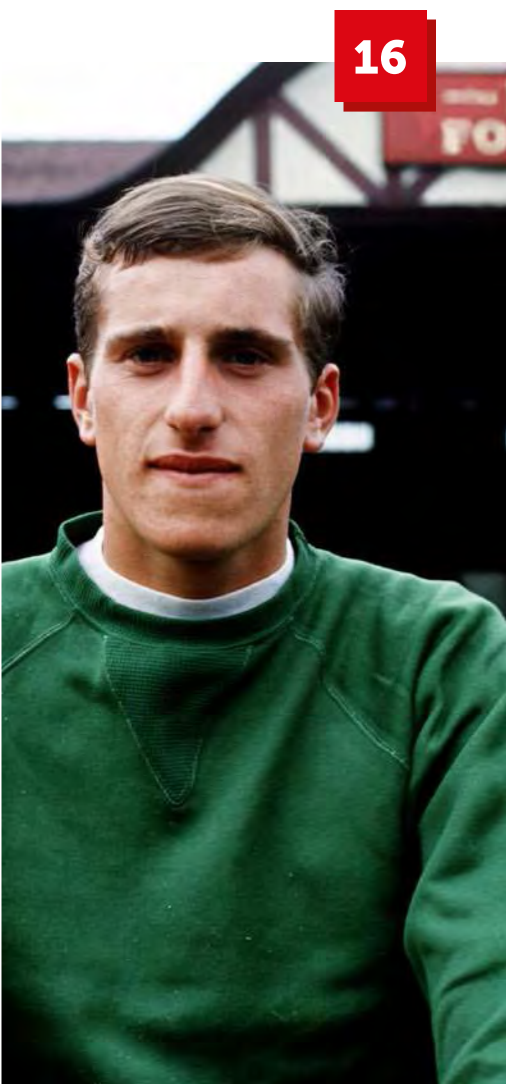
13. Can you name Liverpool's three European Cup-winning keepers?

14. Ex-USA international Brad Friedel kept goal 30 times for Liverpool – which MLS club does he now manage?

15. "If I knew he was this good I would have paid double!" Jürgen Klopp said this after Alisson pulled off a late point-blank save against which side?

16. Ray Clemence is one of four men to keep more than 100 shut-outs for LFC in league football – can you name the other three?





17. One of Liverpool's permanent managers once kept goal for the Reds – who was he?

18. Which ex-Reds keeper also played Minor Counties cricket for Shropshire in the early 1980s?

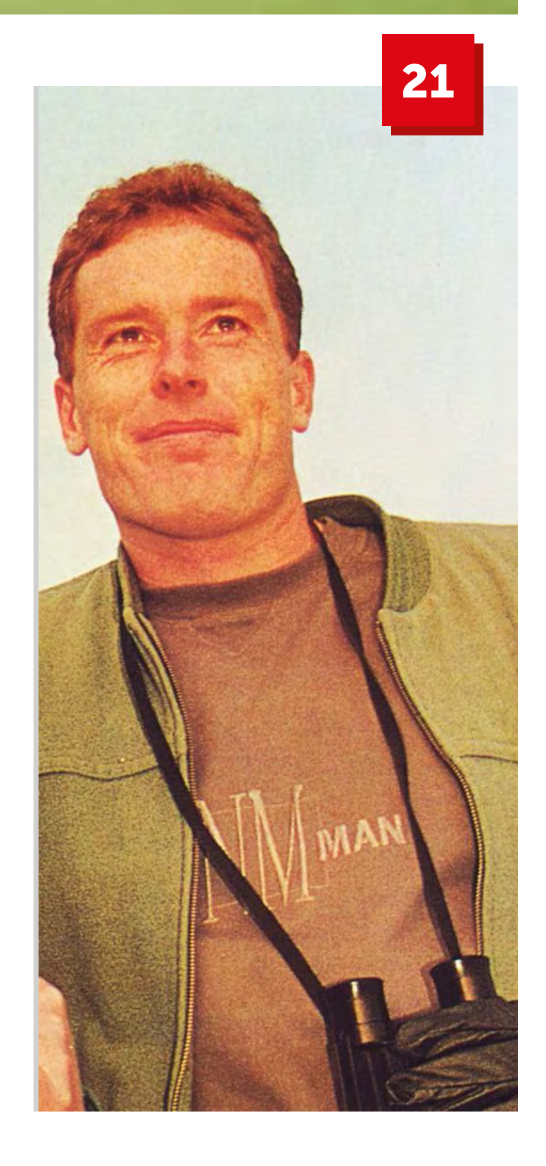
19. Against which team did Alisson's quick-thinking, 50-yard punt lead to a successful Mo Salah penalty at Anfield?

20. Three titles of autobiographies – *Life in a Jungle*; *Thinking Outside The Box*; *On Goalkeeping* – about which ex-Reds keepers?

21. Former Reds goal Mike Hooper liked to indulge in what in his spare time: (a) trainspotting (b) birdwatching (c) pigeon fancying?

22. With whom did Alisson swap his goalie gloves for a guitar to jam in Liverpool's Baltic Triangle neighbourhood?

23. "A lot of people believed I was capable of becoming England's number one and I took it for granted that I was going to do that without having to do the hard stuff, which was working at it." Who wrote this in his autobiography?



24. And which former Liverpool goalie once said this: “There were two things I said when I was eight years old: one was that I was going to play for Australia and the other was playing for Liverpool”?

25. Brazil’s goalkeeping coach, also one of Alisson’s boyhood heroes, was at Anfield before their friendly against Croatia in June 2018 – who is he?

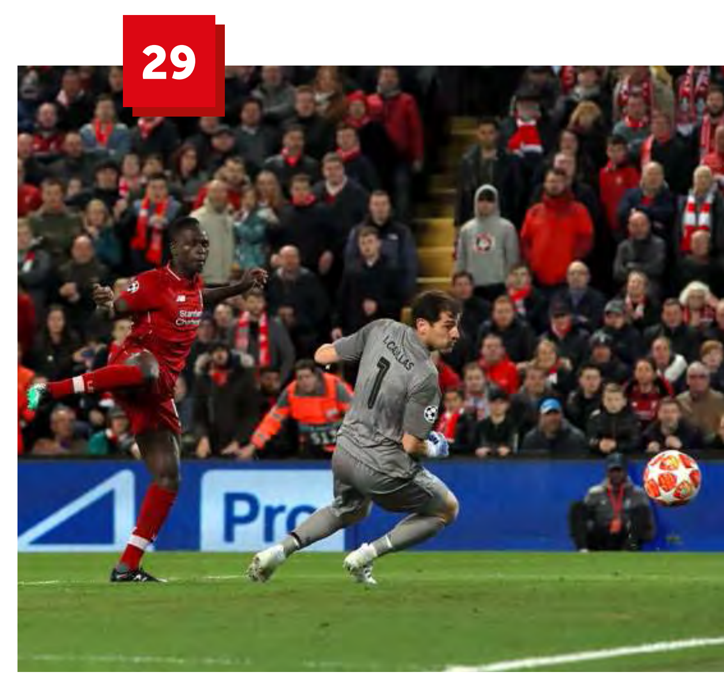
26. Which ex-Reds no1 is goalkeeping coach at South African Premier League club Ajax Cape Town?

27. These four goalkeepers have all played for Liverpool’s Under-23s this season but what are their first names: Grabara, Kelleher, George, and McKenzie-Lyle…

28. Alisson’s brother Muriel is also a professional goalkeeper – for which Portuguese top-flight club does he play?

29. How many times has Iker Casillas played against Liverpool at Anfield?

30. Whom did Alisson thwart with an immaculately-timed one-handed interception at Old Trafford on Sunday 24 February 2019?



30

ANSWERS

1. Chelsea’s Eden Hazard in the Premier League games away and at home; **2.** James Milner; **3.** Besiktas; **4.** Thirteen – he played for Juventus here in April 2005 then PSG in November 2018; **5.** He’s from the Czech Republic; **6.** John Achterberg and Jack Robinson; **7.** Derby County; **8.** Three, from 2004/05 to 06/07; **9.** Chris Kirkland; **10.** An FA Cup Merseyside derby at Goodison Park in 1967; **11.** Xherdan Shaqiri; **12.** Steve Staunton, against Everton (H) in 1999, and Jose Enrique, against Newcastle (A) in 2012; **13.** Ray Clemence (1977, 1978 and 1981), Bruce Grobbelaar (1984) and Jerzy Dudek (2005); **14.** New England Revolution; **15.** Napoli in the final Champions League group game; **16.** Bruce Grobbelaar, Pepe Reina and Elisha Scott; **17.** Matt McQueen, who appeared between the posts 45 times in the late 1890s and also as an outfield player; **18.** Steve Ogrizovic; **19.** Arsenal back in December; **20.** Bruce Grobbelaar, Brad Friedel, and Ray Clemence; **21.** (b) birdwatching; **22.** Scouse musician Jamie Webster; **23.** David James; **24.** Brad Jones; **25.** Claudio Taffarel; **26.** Sander Westerveld; **27.** Kamil, Caoimhin, Shamal, Kai; **28.** Belenenses; **29.** Four times – with Real Madrid in March 2009 and October 2014, then with FC Porto in March 2018 and April 2019; **30.** Jesse Lingard.



“HUGE SURPRISE, I WAS BLOWN AWAY!”

Tom Green, Reading



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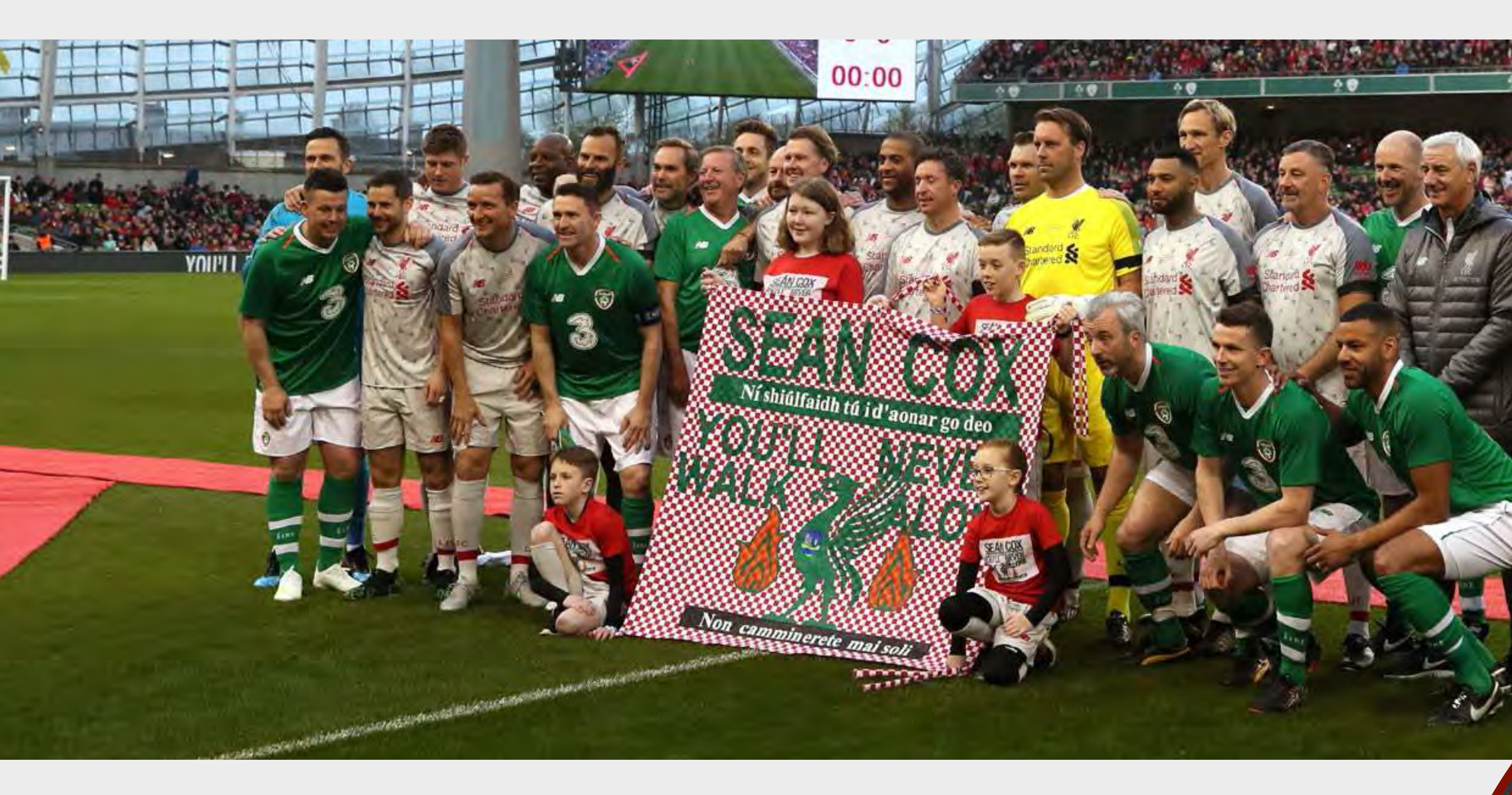
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Can't get enough

Rewind to 2013/14 when Luis Suarez became the first non-European to win the PFA Player of the Year award. The Uruguayan scored 31 league goals that season. "The Premier League is full of really great players and so it is a great honour when these players recognise your work on the pitch," he said. "I always try my best for the team and it is nice to get awards but really this is for my team-mates and the staff at Liverpool because without their help I wouldn't have this prize."

MIGHTY GREEN REDS



On a special night players and fans unite across the Irish Sea in support of the continued rehabilitation of Reds fan **Sean Cox**

Robbie Keane summed it up best. "You can't change what happened, but football does have a great way of bringing people together in times like this," said the former Liverpool striker in the matchday programme for the recent Sean Cox fundraiser in Dublin.

"It's a chance for myself and every one of the players and coaches involved to show how much we are supporting Sean and his family in any way we can."

Liverpool FC are no strangers to the Irish capital. Indeed the Aviva Stadium has become a home from home for LFC and its thousands of Irish supporters in the past few years, with friendlies against Napoli, Athletic Bilbao, Shamrock Rovers and Celtic.

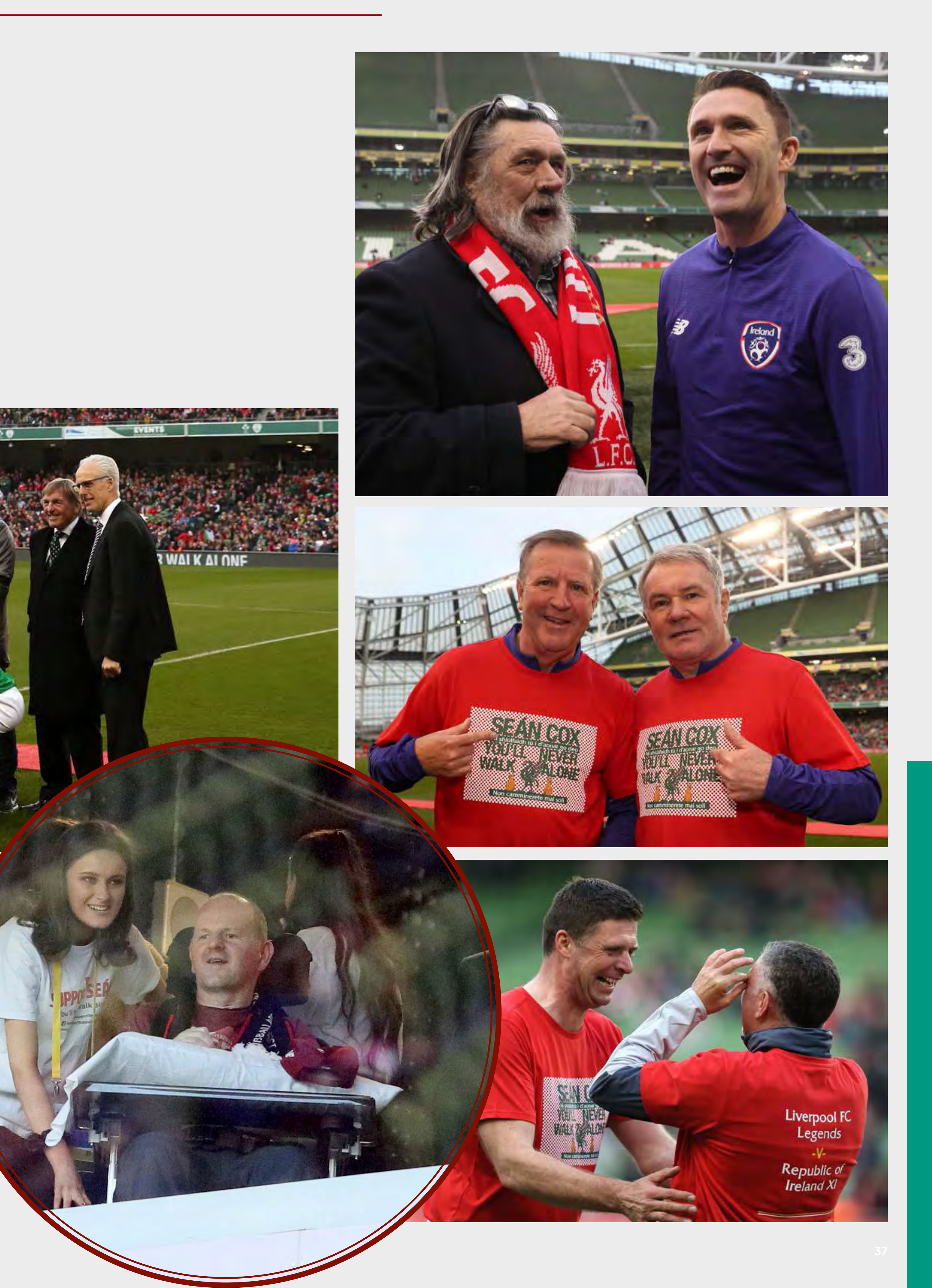
In the spirit of the evening Robbie played for both sides and it was an LFC Legends XI that just edged past their Ireland counterparts, 2-1.

Keith Andrews scored for Eire before John Aldridge, with a penalty, and Vladimir Smicer replied for the Reds in front of well over 25,000 spectators – among them Sean Cox himself. The respective managers were Mick McCarthy and Sir Kenny Dalglish.

The programme also included this message from Sean's wife Martina...

"On behalf of Jack, Shauna, Emma and the extended Cox family I would like to express our sincere thanks to all who have made this huge event happen; in particular Liverpool FC, the FAI and the Legends Organising Committee who worked tirelessly to bring this whole day together.

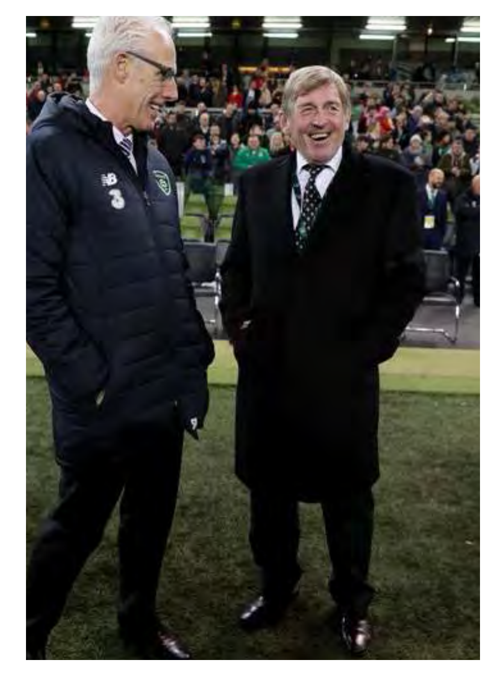
"The last twelve months have not been easy for us, but what has helped get through this difficult journey has been the outpouring of support and genuine concern for Sean. For this we will always be thankful.


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Ireland
EVENTS
SEAN COX
YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALONE
Non camminerete mai soli
Liverpool FC
Legends
-V-
Republic of
Ireland XI















"This week has been really special as we celebrated Sean's birthday on Tuesday. Sean's passion for Liverpool and love of the game of football makes today especially emotional.

"As I write this, our plan is to have Sean in the Aviva Stadium if he is medically up to it. Whether Sean is here today physically or watching from his hospital bed, I know he too will share the emotions I feel.

"A heartfelt thanks to everyone involved in this special day. It will stay with us for a very long time. We are filled with gratitude and feel truly blessed."

Sean was indeed present on the night, making his first public appearance and thanking everyone in a special video.

There was also an insight into how fans on both sides of the Irish Sea rallied round in the aftermath of what happened to Sean last year.

The Spirit of Shankly group produced a special flag which was displayed by the team at the Stadio Olimpico after the Champions League semi-final second leg against Roma it was also on show in Dublin – as well as organising a bucket collection outside Anfield earlier this season with the total matched by the club.

Reds fans on both sides of the Irish Sea can be rightly proud of their efforts, and as SOS member Kieth Culvin points out: "What happened to Sean that night could have happened to any of us. We know that he has a long road to recovery, but it's clear he will never walk alone with all the love and support from his family and friends and the wider Liverpool FC family.



Stevie glee

In 2005/06 Steven Gerrard won the PFA's top award having been named Young Player of the Year in 2001. In the season after Istanbul he led the Reds to FA Cup success with a heroic two-goal display in the final against West Ham United. Liverpool had won their semi-final on the weekend of the awards ceremony. He said: "To go through to an FA Cup final and win this special award in the same weekend is fantastic for me."


Standard
L.F.C.



OLD SCHOOL

Ageist gags aside, there is no substitute for the class and experience that vice-captain James Milner brings to the side

How does this team compare to the previous Liverpool teams you have played in?

I think getting to three finals since I've been at the club has helped, in terms of going through that together and gaining a lot of European experience in knockout games.

Getting to the Europa League final and getting to the Champions League final but not getting over the line was disappointing. But that's something we have the opportunity to change. I think that first trophy is always the hardest. But for the experience we've gained – last year pushing for a Champions League title and also battling to get into the Champions League through the Premier League position – that was a high-pressure situation and we managed to do it well.

All that experience we've gained as a group has made us a better side and I think you can see that in how we've played this year. At times we maybe haven't played so well, but we've still managed to get the results.

After overcoming Porto, you now face Barcelona in the Champions League semi-finals...

They've obviously got lots of quality players. We know that their team is full of quality but it's important that we don't just focus on certain individuals as we defend. We know the strengths in their side and that we will have to defend strongly as a team together.

That's how we always try to do it and, as a side, we try not to focus on individuals. As soon as we do that, the way we defend breaks down so we have to defend as a unit against all the players that they have.

The experiences that we've gained as a side over the last few years doing well in knockout football and sampling the runs in the European tournaments will hold us in good stead for the nights like we are going to experience in those Barcelona fixtures. If we have a tough five minutes in a game, we know that we've been there before and that we've managed to overcome that.

The team goes into May knowing there is a maximum of a handful of games remaining...

I think it's good to have an aim and picking up five wins is what we are hoping to achieve. That's the most games we can play now and if we can win all of those we'll get at least get one trophy, although it might not be enough in the league even if we win both of the remaining games.

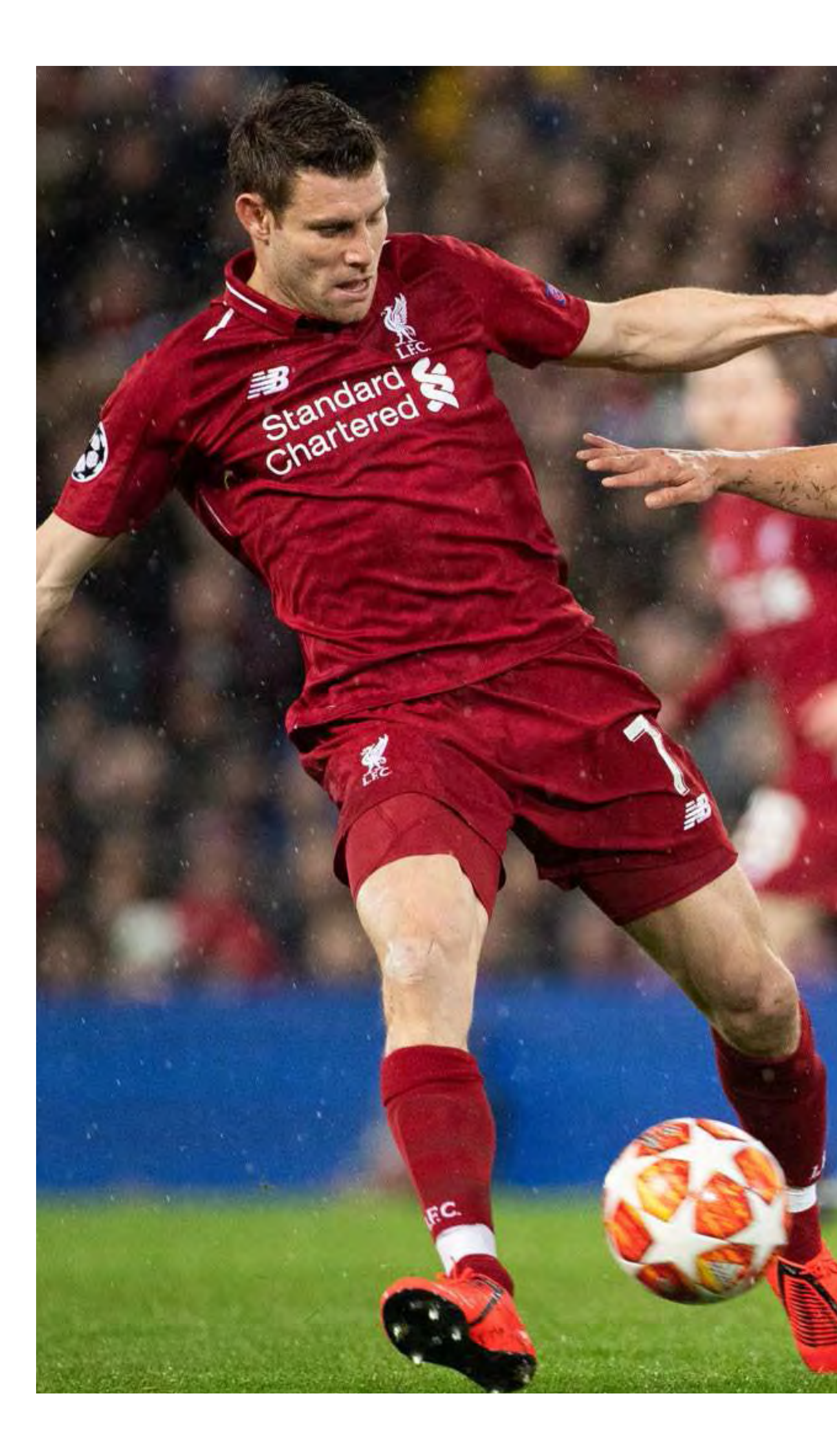
But that's all we can focus on and all we can control, the games in front of us, and that's all we've done all season. It's a boring answer – just concentrate on the next game – but that's the way you have to do it. It's good for the fans to get excited and look ahead and predict the outcomes of games but we know – and I know better than anyone – how things can change in a season. If you take your eye off one game for a second it will bite you on the bum, so it's important that we focus on every game and keep this momentum going.

As a group we're focused on our targets and concentrating on what's going on within the dressing-room – that's the most important thing. There's a confidence within the squad but not an over-confidence, which is important.

You also head into the final run of fixtures on a 19-game unbeaten run – that must do wonders for the confidence among the squad...

Momentum is important. The form coming into the final games and the fact that even when we haven't played too well we have managed to get results is obviously the sign of a good team, but the result's the most important thing.

I think that's impressed me more than when we're playing well because we all know how well we can play –



ALL THAT EXPERIENCE WE'VE GAINED AS A GROUP HAS MADE US A BETTER SIDE AND I THINK YOU CAN SEE THAT IN HOW WE'VE PLAYED THIS YEAR

we proved that last year when we blew teams away in certain periods of games. This year, it's when we haven't played as well as we would have liked and we've had to grind it out and we've had to keep going until the 90th minute to get a winner.

In the course of a long season when you're pushing for trophies, league titles and Champions Leagues, it's the tricky 15, 20, 45 minutes where you're not on your game that you are asked those questions. It's things like: can you keep a clean-sheet? Can you regroup when it really matters? Can you push forward and get a result when it feels like it's going against you?

We've managed to do that at tough times and hopefully that continues. That's what has impressed me more, to be honest because, as I say, I know how good we are as a team and how good we can be at our best. Now, if we can put in a few performances and the lads keep playing as they have done then hopefully that will be good enough and it will certainly keep the momentum going for the rest of the season.

We have to try and win all the games we have left and see where that takes us.

Week by week, game by game, this Liverpool squad all seem to have handled the pressure of the title race particularly well...

It's been a great strength of the whole squad and the management this season. People talk about dreaming and what things would be like and obviously there are so many influences outside the club that you see every day driving to training and being in and around the city and things like that.

But there's such a great mentality within the dressing-room with the focus on training, concentrating on the next game and staying in the present. I think you can see that in the performances with the calmness that's there and the professionalism to do the job.

We're learning as a group and hopefully using our experiences but also not taking our foot off the gas. In every single game we have between now and the end of the season, we want to go out there and be at 100 per cent and be on the front-foot.

Of course there is pressure, but that's why we're all at this club and it's what Liverpool expects. The club and the supporters expect success and they expect trophies and that's obviously the next step for us. We've got two chances this season and we've just got to focus game-by-game and see if we can finish it off.



Has belief been growing within the squad as the season has gone on?

I think it has been positive. There hasn't been too much talk about what's going on or what might happen. That's how we've been all season. We're training in the same way and the mentality going into the games is the same. That's what we can concentrate on: one game at a time and keep pushing. But I'd say that's a massive positive within the dressing-room and with the team – every game is just the next game.

Obviously there is plenty of talk outside the dressing-room, in the media and, in this day and age, social media, so it's pretty hard to get away from it. But the lads are just focusing on our side and what we can control.

The front-three are firing on all cylinders which will be crucial for the run-in too...

People talked about Mo Salah being back after his goal at Southampton, but I'm not sure he ever went away! Obviously there was a lot of talk outside of the club with people expecting him to score in every single game but that was through his own brilliance last year and the expectation levels that come as a result.

But even though he went a few games without scoring, he was contributing to the team, he was assisting goals and working hard so there was never ever any problem inside the dressing-room.

We know what he brings to the team, we know what Sadio does and what Bobby does and we're lucky to have the three of them. I think that's what's so strong about us as a side. If Mo's not having the best of games, Sadio's up there, Bobby's up there, the midfield are there and the defence have been brilliant all year as well as the goalkeeper, so it's a real team-effort.

The way we play everybody needs each other and that's a big strength of our side.

Jordan Henderson has played in a more advanced midfield role since April – what have you made of his performances?

Fantastic. We know how good he is. He's been asked to do a job for the team and we know he'll do anything he's asked – if he was asked to play in goal, he'd do that. That's obviously the sign of a great leader. He's been playing fantastically well in the last few years at no6, [but] maybe you don't get as many goals and assists there because you're performing for the team, breaking down attacks and starting the play off. Maybe you don't get as many headlines there. People are seeing how well he is playing in a more advanced position, but he's been playing equally as well as a no6 too.

It's great to see him maybe getting a bit more recognition now. He's fantastic for us, he's a great leader and some of the performances he's put in recently at such a big stage of the season have shown what a good player he is and what a big influence he is on the team.



JORDAN IS A GREAT LEADER AND HIS PERFORMANCES RECENTLY AT SUCH A BIG STAGE OF THE SEASON HAVE SHOWN WHAT A BIG INFLUENCE HE IS


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THE SQUAD'S VERY GOOD, WE'VE GOT A GREAT TEAM-SPIRIT, AND SPEAKING AS AN OLDER GUY, IF I CAN HELP SOME OF THE YOUNGER GUYS THEN FANTASTIC

You did that 'old man' celebration after slotting home the penalty at Cardiff– how important is it to help the younger players through the experiences you've shared this season?

I help as much as I can, but I think you sometimes learn more yourself by making mistakes and experiencing things for yourself. We've been lucky in that in the last few years we've been to two European finals and we've also been to a domestic final as well.

We've been under pressure in the Premier League to finish in the top four, alongside having a run in Europe, but we have managed to get the job done. We haven't got over the line in a trophy-winning capacity yet and that's crucially important and hopefully the next step but I think the recent seasons have been building up to that.

The squad is still young, but if you take someone like Trent for example, and you see what he's experienced so far: a Champions League final, going to a World Cup with England and doing really well. He's still so young at 20 and yet experienced so much already, more than a lot of players who are 24, 25 or 26.

The squad's very good, we've got a great team-spirit and, speaking myself as an older guy, if I can help some of the younger guys then fantastic. But I think you can see the evolution of the team and the squad since the manager's been here.

I think that it's more important that you have those experiences as a team together as opposed to having one or two who have done it on their own and the rest haven't.

You can see how we have characteristics of a winning team but we're not a winning team yet and that's something that we're desperate to change.





MILLY ON THE SPOT

Bordeaux (H) 26 Nov 2015 won 2-1 – scored past Cedric Carrasso



Swansea City (H) 29 Nov 2015 won 1-0 – scored past Lukasz Fabianski

Augsburg (H) 25 Feb 2016 won 1-0 – scored past Marwin Hitz

Tottenham (A) 27 Aug 2016 drew 1-1 – scored past Michel Vorm

Hull City (H) 24 Sept 2016 won 5-1– scored past David Marshall

Hull City (H) 24 Sept 2016 won 5-1– scored past David Marshall

Swansea City (A) 1 Oct 2016 won 2-1 – scored past Lukasz Fabianski

Sunderland (H) 26 Nov 2016 won 2-0 – scored past Jordan Pickford



Man United (A) 15 Jan 2017 drew 1-1 – scored past David De Gea

Man City (A) 19 March 2017 drew 1-1 – scored past Willy Caballero

Southampton (H) 7 May 2017 drew 0-0 – saved by Fraser Forster

Maribor (H) 1 Nov 2017 won 3-0 – saved by Jasmin Handanovic

Everton (H) 5 Jan 2018 won 2-1 scored past Jordan Pickford

Crystal Palace (A) 20 Aug 2018 won 2-0 – scored past Wayne Hennessey

Paris Saint-Germain (H) 18 Sept 2018 won 3-2 – scored past Alphonse Areola

Paris Saint-Germain (A) 28 Nov 2018 lost 1-2 – scored past Gianluigi Buffon

Fulham (A) 17 March 2019 won 2-1 – scored past Sergio Rico

Cardiff (A) 21 April 2019 won 2-0 – scored past Neil Etheridge









Name on the cup

John Barnes made an immediate impression at Anfield after joining from Watford in the summer of 1987, mesmerising the Kop with his sublime skills. His debut campaign with the Reds also impressed his fellow pros who voted the England international as the PFA's Player of the Year for 1987/88. He scored 15 league goals and countless assists as the Reds won league title number seventeen.

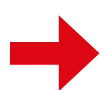
MUM'S THE WORD

How Liverpool FC Women's inspirational captain **Sophie Bradley-Auckland** is breaking down barriers in the female game

Interview: William Hughes

Meet Sophie Bradley-Auckland. Wife. Mother. Captain. Care-home manager. Inspiration. It's little wonder that Reds' manager Vicky Jepson has called her "our very own super woman."

The 29-year-old centre-back is the only mother currently playing in the FA Women's Super League. She combines her role as mum to Macie, who will be two this summer, with managing a family care-home near her Nottingham base. As team captain of Liverpool FC Women, she also regularly makes a 230-mile commute to the Reds' training headquarters in Wallasey.






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Considering all the hats she wears, it is to her credit that Sophie has been one of the team's outstanding performers in the FA WSL this season, particularly as she was told she may never play again after sustaining a knee injury in 2014.

Sophie began working in the care home when she was making her way as a part-time player with Nottingham Forest and Leeds United. Nowadays, when Liverpool FC Women's players are given a rest-day, she's usually found helping out in the home, just as she is either side of her long drive to training.

"My duties are varied, helping the old people in their basic day-to-day requirements," she says. "People ask me how I do it, but I think your body just gets used to it."

Sophie was capped 28 times by England between 2010 and 2014 and also represented Great Britain at the 2012 Olympics before injury left her footballing future up in the air. She was playing for Notts County at Yeovil Town in July 2014 when, after an innocuous movement, she crumpled to the ground in agony.

Two operations on her right leg followed in quick succession, one on the horrendous knee injury – which saw her dislocate the joint before rupturing ligaments – and the second on a persistent ankle complaint.

Ankle surgery to cut away bone growths was supposed to be the more difficult operation, but it was complications with her knee that set her back.



"The surgeon thought that I probably wouldn't play football again," she reveals. "But I was adamant that I would and I'm quite strong-minded and determined in anything I do.

"After having Macie, I returned to football and playing is so much better now that she's watching. She's my little mascot and I do it for her – to make her proud like I made my dad proud.

"I take each game as it comes. I used to like to have ten hours' sleep before a match and now I get what I'm given. At the minute Macie is pretty good but I went through the stages that every mum does where I didn't sleep much but I was still able to play.

"It puts things in perspective and I play football because I love playing. It is something that I've always done since I was a little girl and now it's extra-special that Macie's around watching.

"If I didn't have my family there to support me then I would struggle because I would have no-one to look after her while I'm playing. They come to every game and Macie's actually watching the play now, even though she keeps shouting 'goal' even when it's not a goal for us!

"I think having her around rubs off on the other girls in our team as well. They love having her around and keep asking when she's coming which is really nice."

As someone who has been involved in the FA WSL since its launch in 2011, Sophie is well-placed to comment on the progress made year-on-year. Last month it was announced that Barclays will become the FA WSL's first headline sponsor after agreeing a multi-year multi-million pound deal with the FA.

"It's fantastic news and I think it's just what the league needs now with that extra little bit of support and backing. The women's game is now on TV all the time and the girls are doing really well to promote it.

"The level of football for women in this country now is at an all-time high. Top international players are wanting to come over to play in this league instead of going to America and the competition's come on in leaps-and-bounds. It's fantastic that someone is taking the opportunity to support it and back it and make the league even better."

The Reds no6 believes this summer's World Cup will provide another opportunity to cement the interest, especially if Phil Neville's England side can perform well.

"The first time I saw the big jump in interest was back at the Olympics in 2012. I came back to my club and saw that there was a difference in terms of the people that came to watch, but also that people knew about it all even if they weren't able to come to the games.

"In this last year the interest has grown massively again and I'm just grateful that I can be a part of it still. I don't think there's anyone else in this league that's got a young child and is still playing, so I think it's great that Liverpool have given me this opportunity. It shows that the game is changing.

"We're women and part of the life-cycle is to bring up children and it's fantastic that Liverpool FC supports that and hopefully other clubs will do that too but it does show that the game has come a long way."

Jepson and her staff have been delighted with the way Sophie has

I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANYONE ELSE IN THIS LEAGUE WHO'S GOT A YOUNG CHILD AND IS STILL PLAYING, SO I THINK IT'S GREAT THAT LIVERPOOL HAVE GIVEN ME THIS OPPORTUNITY AND IT SHOWS THAT THE GAME IS CHANGING





CATCH THE MATCH

Liverpool FC Women conclude their season with a home game against Everton Ladies FC on Saturday 11 May at Tranmere Rovers' Prenton Park. The FA WSL fixture kicks off at 12.30pm. Why not get along to show Sophie and her team-mates your support? Entry is just £5 for adults and £2.50 for concessions, with family tickets (two adults and two children) costing £12. LFC season-ticket holders and Members gain free admission.



juggled her varied responsibilities to lead the team with distinction. An ever-present this season, Sophie wears the armband on matchdays and has been a role-model to the rest of the squad off the pitch too.

"Vicky and our general manager Adam [Greaves-Smith] have been really good in supporting me to travel in from Nottingham and all the girls have been great too," she says.

Opportunities are opening up in the game and Liverpool have been tremendously supportive and I think that backing is why I have been able to play some of my best football. I go out there and I enjoy it but being a mum has helped me appreciate that there's plenty more to life than football.

"After games we have lost, everyone is feeling down but then I will see Macie and bring her into the changing room and we're all smiling again. When you're out on the pitch, you just want to win games. That's ultimately all I want to do but if I'm frustrated about a performance, I can't go in and be frustrated with Macie."

Sophie hopes her story can help inspire her team-mates and believes the opportunity to be role-models to future generations is a privilege they all enjoy.

"Sometimes people think that when you've got to the top and you're playing for a club like Liverpool that it became easy getting there. But every single one of us in this squad have stories behind us of ups and downs along the way.

"As a group, we're very approachable and it's important to us that after every game we go and speak to the fans, have pictures taken with them and sign autographs. If they message us on social media, we will always try to reply. It's important that we take time out to do that as I would like to think that people would do that for Macie.

"I would have loved that as a little girl. There were plenty of role-models that I looked up to but I never had that opportunity. Now the players are within touching distance and the fans can get some communication back.

"It's nice to be a role-model and to show people the way and I hope the women's game always stays that way."





AS A GROUP WE'RE VERY APPROACHABLE AND IT'S IMPORTANT THAT AFTER EVERY GAME WE GO AND SPEAK TO THE FANS AND HAVE PICTURES TAKEN WITH THEM

“OF COURSE WE’RE READY. WE ARE LIVERPOOL”

Ley Hodgson, Preston, UK

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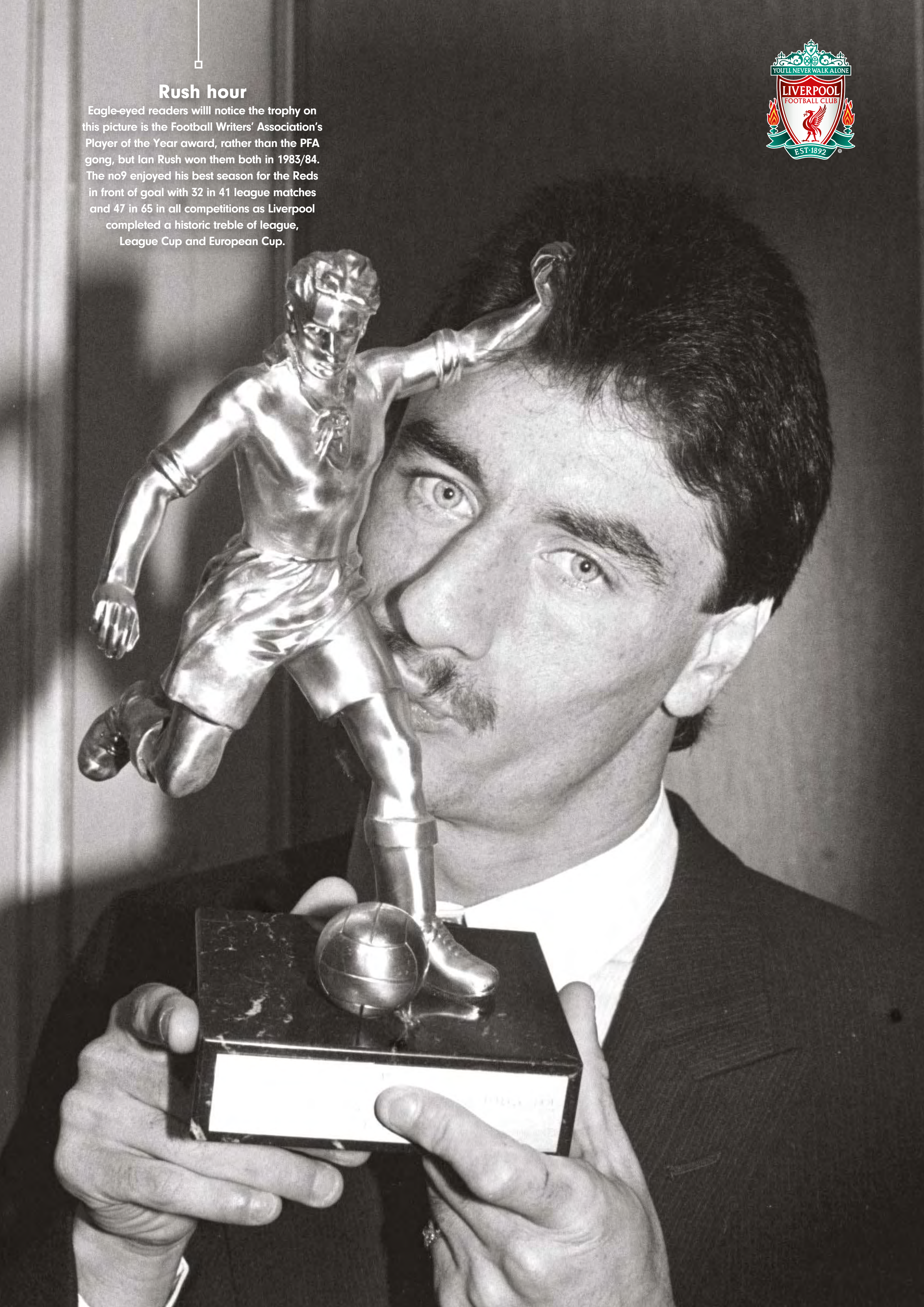
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Rush hour

Eagle-eyed readers willl notice the trophy on this picture is the Football Writers' Association's Player of the Year award, rather than the PFA gong, but Ian Rush won them both in 1983/84. The no9 enjoyed his best season for the Reds in front of goal with 32 in 41 league matches and 47 in 65 in all competitions as Liverpool completed a historic treble of league, League Cup and European Cup.



"You're playing, Smithy"

In his own words, the late great Anfield Iron on breaking into the first team, manager Bill Shankly's wise words and the day he went home with the fans!

Liverpool FC lost one of its greats recently when Tommy Smith passed away aged 74. He was a former skipper and part of the spine of the late 60s/early 70s side managed by the great Bill Shankly, and of course it was his header in Rome that helped the Reds win their first European Cup in 1977.

The affection within which Smithy was held was demonstrated by a rousing applause before the Premier League home game against Chelsea and an immaculately-observed minute's silence ahead of the subsequent Huddersfield Town fixture.

Around 15 years ago Tommy recalled a few of his defining Anfield moments in the book *Behind The Shankly Gates*, produced in association with the Liverpool Former Players Association. He recalled going head-to-head with fellow Scouser and full-back Gerry Byrne, and some early advice from Shanks that later led to him going head-to-head with the great man himself...

"Being a local lad and a passionate Liverpudlian, I was naturally keen to impress when I first started training with the first-team lads at Melwood in the early Sixties. I remember nutmegging Gerry Byrne, our rock-solid full-back. I thought I would try and impress and was full of it after slipping the ball through Gerry's legs.

"Minutes later a high ball dropped between us that was there to be challenge for in the air. I leapt with Gerry concentrating on the ball. Gerry leapt with me, concentrating on my head. He butted me in full-flight and I was suddenly flat-out on the floor with a crowd around me. The first thing I remember is Shanks standing over me saying, 'That will teach you to nutmeg Gerry Byrne, son!'

"You learn something new every day in football. I had just been given my first serious lesson in how to handle yourself....

"In 1965 I had just turned 20 and was beginning to break into the first-team. Liverpool had this crucial European game

against Belgian champions Anderlecht.

"England had played Belgium just a few weeks before and Shanks had been very impressed by the opposition. Three-quarters of the Belgian team were Anderlecht players, so the boss knew we faced a real challenge.

"I didn't expect to be in the team at Anfield. I can remember that the squad was taken to the Blundellsands Hotel on the outskirts of Liverpool where the boss was going to give his final tactical talk. As I was walking in, Ronnie Moran said, 'You are playing, Smithy'.

"Shanks indicated that he would be playing our usual 4-4-2, but his caution was clear He said to me: 'Tommy, you will be Ronnie Yeats' right leg tonight – and don't go over the halfway line'.

"It was as simple as that, although the boss would privately offer me one bit of advice that I carried with me throughout my career. He said, 'Tommy, I want you to remember what I'm about to tell you: don't take any **** from anybody – it doesn't matter who it is.'

"His words were ringing in my ears against the Belgians. In the match I got stuck in on the Big Man's right-hand side. Little things happen that please you when you feel you are on top of your game. The lad I was marking snapped at one point and said to me, 'Nutter!' I was surprised he knew any English, let alone any slang, but it told me I was doing my job. We won the game 3-0...

"It's funny how 'firsts' stick in your mind. I have vivid memories of being in the first Liverpool team to win the FA Cup [in 1965]; of being the first Liverpool captain to pick up a European trophy, the UEFA Cup in 1973 and of being in the first Liverpool team to win the European Cup. But not all the games are happy memories.

"I well remember being dropped. The date was 3 February 1973. I suppose it comes to all players, but I was still living by the little phrase Shanks had instilled into me: 'Don't take any **** from anyone'.

"Of course in my mind that had come to include him



WE WERE PLAYING ANDERLECHT AND SHANKS TOLD ME I WOULD BE RON YEATS' RIGHT LEG FOR THE NIGHT – AND NOT TO GO OVER THE HALFWAY LINE!

and this was certainly the case at Highbury where we were facing up to a tough game against the Gunners. What made it more significant is that I was captain at the time.

"We had lost in disappointing fashion 1-0 to our old rivals Leeds and, as skipper, the boss called me in to


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discuss everything about the game. We had also lost at Southampton and he clearly wasn't happy, even though we reversed the trend when a Kevin Keegan goal helped us beat Sheffield United at Anfield.

"As the Arsenal game loomed, I sensed something was going on in the background.

If Shanks used your name when he was discussing tactics, you knew you were playing. If he talked about 'the number four' or 'the number six' you knew you were out and I've seen players look shocked and frustrated down the years when this happened.

"We travelled to London with no firm indication of what the team was, but I just knew. I was getting more and more wound-up inside and Shanks' own words about standing up for yourself were getting louder and louder in my head. I said to myself: if he is going to be awkward by keeping the decision from me until the last possible moment, I'm going to be awkward.

"We used to leave our bags on the bus when we got to away-games, but I took mine into the stadium and wedged it across the threshold of the dressing-room door. Everyone, including the boss, had to step over it every time they came in. No-one moved it.

"The team was finally read out and I was fuming. Peter Cormack asked me what I was doing and I just said: 'I'm going home, See you tomorrow'.

I finally picked up the bag and was suddenly outside of Highbury where I was spotted by some Liverpool lads. They said: 'Where are you going Smithy?' I said, 'I'm not playing. I'm going home'.

"This kid just said, 'If you're going home, so are we' and so this little group trooped off towards the station, the Tommy Smith Liberation Army! It made me realise what the fans thought of me. It made me even more determined to win back my place.

"On the Monday, I was still wound-up and determined to get things off my chest with Shanks. Suddenly I heard him calling me from his office. Before I could utter a word, he said, 'Smithy, I don't hold it against you – I would have done the same myself'. He had completely defused a potentially difficult situation with his man-management.

"We had our spits and spats but he was a remarkable manager."


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DIFFERENT BALL GAME

Rugby league returns to Anfield for the third time in as many years when Anfield hosts the Magic Weekend later this month. We caught up with some of Super League's LFC fans to preview the oval-ball extravaganza



Spirits are high among the Warrington Wolves squad just now. With ten wins from their opening 13 matches, Wire are riding high after the first three months of the Super League season.

Yet it isn't just rugby league that sets the players' sporting pulses racing. There is a huge interest in the Premier League and no fewer than eight members of the first-team squad declare themselves as Liverpool fans. Some even bring in their own replica shirts and scarves for this photo-shoot!

For the record the Liverpool legion are Stefan Ratchford, Ben Westwood, Blake Austin, Danny Walker, Harvey Livett, Jason Clark, and Ben Currie (who was unavailable for our pictures), plus assistant-coach Lee Briers.

As the players gather pitchside for the shoot they realise that the long-serving Westwood, who has been with Warrington since 2002, is missing. He is eventually spotted finishing his post-training meal in an upstairs canteen and makes his way down from the top of the stand singing *You'll Never Walk Alone*!

As the group prepare to engage for a scrum-style snap, Austin, Wolves' Australian-born stand-off who is donning a 2018/19 LFC home jersey, also breaks into song: "There's something that the Kop wants you to know...si señor, give the ball to Bobby and he'll score!"

It's understandable then, that there is a huge level of excitement building ahead of Magic Weekend at Anfield with Warrington set to come up against old foes Wigan Warriors in front of the Kop on the evening of Saturday 25 May.

England full-back Ratchford says: "We've been quite lucky in some of the grounds that we've played at. Obviously Old Trafford hosts the Grand Final every year and we've had great Magic Weekends at the Etihad and St James' Park, but as soon as Anfield got mentioned I was thinking: oh, please let this come off!

"There are a few of the lads who support Liverpool so to see a club like that getting behind rugby league and wanting to stage the weekend is great news for the sport."

Ratchford has special reason to be looking forward to the game



against Wigan. In 2016, Anfield staged the final of the Four Nations tournament but England just missed out after losing their last group game to New Zealand 17-16 at Huddersfield.

Then last year when England met the Kiwis in a home Test series, Stefan played in the game at Elland Road but missed out on the Anfield fixture.

"We trained at Anfield before the game and I was practising goal-kicking in front of the Kop, thinking: how good is this!

"The lads were in the changing-room saying, 'I wonder who usually sits here and who sits there?' Hopefully this time I can stay injury-free and finally play at Anfield. It would be very special."

Stefan became a Liverpool fan in the 1990s. "The earliest thing I can remember was seeing one of the 4-3 games against Newcastle. I can remember sitting at home watching it and from that moment on I was a red.

"My mum and dad weren't too much into football. The family are from Wigan so it was all rugby and I never got to any live games until I was quite a bit older. But once you see Anfield, it's a case of 'when can I go back?'"

The Wire no1 was a one-year-old the last time the Reds won the league, so it is no surprise that he has been enjoying the fare being offered up on the pitch this season.

WE TRAINED AT ANFIELD AND I WAS PRACTISING GOAL KICKING IN FRONT OF THE KOP, THINKING: HOW GOOD IS THIS!









"I've managed to get to a couple more games this year, possibly about 10 or 12 so far which is more than normal as it is quite difficult with the planning as it all depends on our fixtures and so on.

"I have managed to get to quite a few league games this year but also to a couple of Champions League games. I was at the Porto match and the Bayern Munich game which were great.

"I don't want to start counting the chickens just yet but the last couple of years have been good and the team has been progressing nicely. We're just unfortunate at the moment that Manchester City are such a good side but you never know what is going to happen, do you?

"Hopefully we will pick up the Premier League at the end of it but I don't want to push it by talking about the Champions League as well!"

The Warrington ranks also include a few Manchester City fans and the playful ribbing has gone up on a notch in the past few weeks.

Stefan explains: "Our player-liaison officer Kylie Leuluai's lad plays for Man City's Academy so hopefully we'll see him on the big stage in a few years. There are maybe three or four City fans, including one of our captains and our physio, so we get some quite good banter going on there. We've got one or two United fans as well but they have been quiet in the last couple of years, thankfully."

Warrington's early-season form has been strong and the Magic Weekend clash will be their third of the campaign against Wigan. They won 25-12 in a league clash at the Halliwell Jones in March and also host their rivals in a Challenge Cup tie on 12 May.

"Last year I think we played Wigan about six times and they are always really tough games but it makes for a great atmosphere. Both clubs are really well supported, it's a bit of a local derby and it's always quite a fierce game so that will hopefully draw some numbers in to watch.

"It will create that atmosphere and they're usually pretty special games against Wigan so I'm sure Magic Weekend will be no different."

Warrington had the double disappointment of losing two finals last year, falling at the last hurdle in both the Challenge Cup and Grand Final. After also seeing Liverpool lose out in three finals since Jürgen Klopp took charge, Stefan is hoping this season can have a different outcome.

"After the disappointment of the last couple of years with us losing finals and Liverpool losing finals it would be nice if we could do the double. If we could both pick up trophies this year it would be an unbelievable achievement.

"At Warrington we've been performing well and while we know that we've still got plenty of improvement we can make, we're in a good spot as a club at the moment. As Liverpool have seen, we know it's a long year and it can throw up some unexpected results.

"We're in the same boat but if we could both pick up some silverware this year it would be a great 2019."

Interview: William Hughes

SAINTS AT ANFIELD... THIS MEANS AMOR

St Helens prop-forward Kyle Amor is a match-going Liverpool supporter and can't wait to play at Anfield on the Magic Weekend



Rugby league's Magic Weekend is at Anfield on 25/26 May. For anyone who doesn't know, explain the concept of it to us…
Magic Weekend is unique in professional sport. It's a weekend where we have all the regular games from one week played in the same venue over two days and this year it is at Anfield.

Fans from every team attend and you can sit on the Kop and watch three games a day for £25, or £12.50 for a kid. In this day and age, for live sport, that's peanuts – brilliant value for money.

As a player it's a special occasion. Most young lads in England want to grow up to be footballers, but when you're not very good at football you play rugby league instead. For us, Magic Weekend is the closest we get to to feeling like footballers.

I've been lucky enough to play in a Grand Final at Old Trafford and at both the Etihad and St James' Park on Magic Weekend, but it is beyond my wildest dreams to think I'd get to play at any of those stadiums and now Anfield.

For fans who don't know the game then if you come along to Anfield it'll be a friendly, fun, family, upbeat atmosphere and it's on a Bank Holiday weekend too. Like with any sport, if you watch rugby league live you get a better appreciation of what it is and what the players are doing – you can even hear the collisions.

Liverpool is a great city to make a weekend of it in, too.

Have any of the St Helens team played at Anfield before?
Two of my Saints team-mates, Tommy Makinson and Jonny Lomax, played at Anfield for England against New Zealand last year and they said it was phenomenal to play there. And Tommy supports Man United!

The pinnacle of our game is the Grand Final, but a lot of rugby-league players never get anywhere near it. For those lads Magic Weekend at Anfield is as big as it gets. We've also got a lot of young lads in our side this season who have never played at Magic Weekend before so to do it at Anfield is huge for them.

We could be playing at the home of the Champions League and



Premier League winners – hopefully – so that is also massive for us and although Liverpool is a football-dominated area, it is so close to the rugby league heartlands of St Helens, Widnes, Warrington and Wigan.

There have got to be some talented young athletes in Liverpool who could easily transition from football into rugby league. I honestly think if this Magic Weekend catches the attention of just two or three young lads who end up going on to play in the game professionally it is job done.

I'd be a fool to think thousands of Liverpudlians will suddenly buy tickets for Saints games because of one match, but we want Magic Weekend to leave a legacy in Liverpool.

It is well-known that you're a Liverpool fan who attends matches so what will it mean for you to play at Anfield for Saints against Castleford Tigers?

I'm from Whitehaven and there's a big power plant called Sellafield there. For most people the aim is to get a job there, you don't tend to leave Cumbria. I used to watch Liverpool on *Match of the Day* and supported them, so for a lad from Cumbria to get to play at Anfield will be awesome for me, especially as our game against Castleford is on my 32nd birthday! How's that for fate?

I've got friends at home who are so passionate about Liverpool they don't speak for an hour if the Reds lose, so I've been saying to them 'Imagine if I slid over for a try at the Kop end?' It would be immense and I'm really excited that my seven-year-old son Max, who is well into his footy, will be there so see me play.

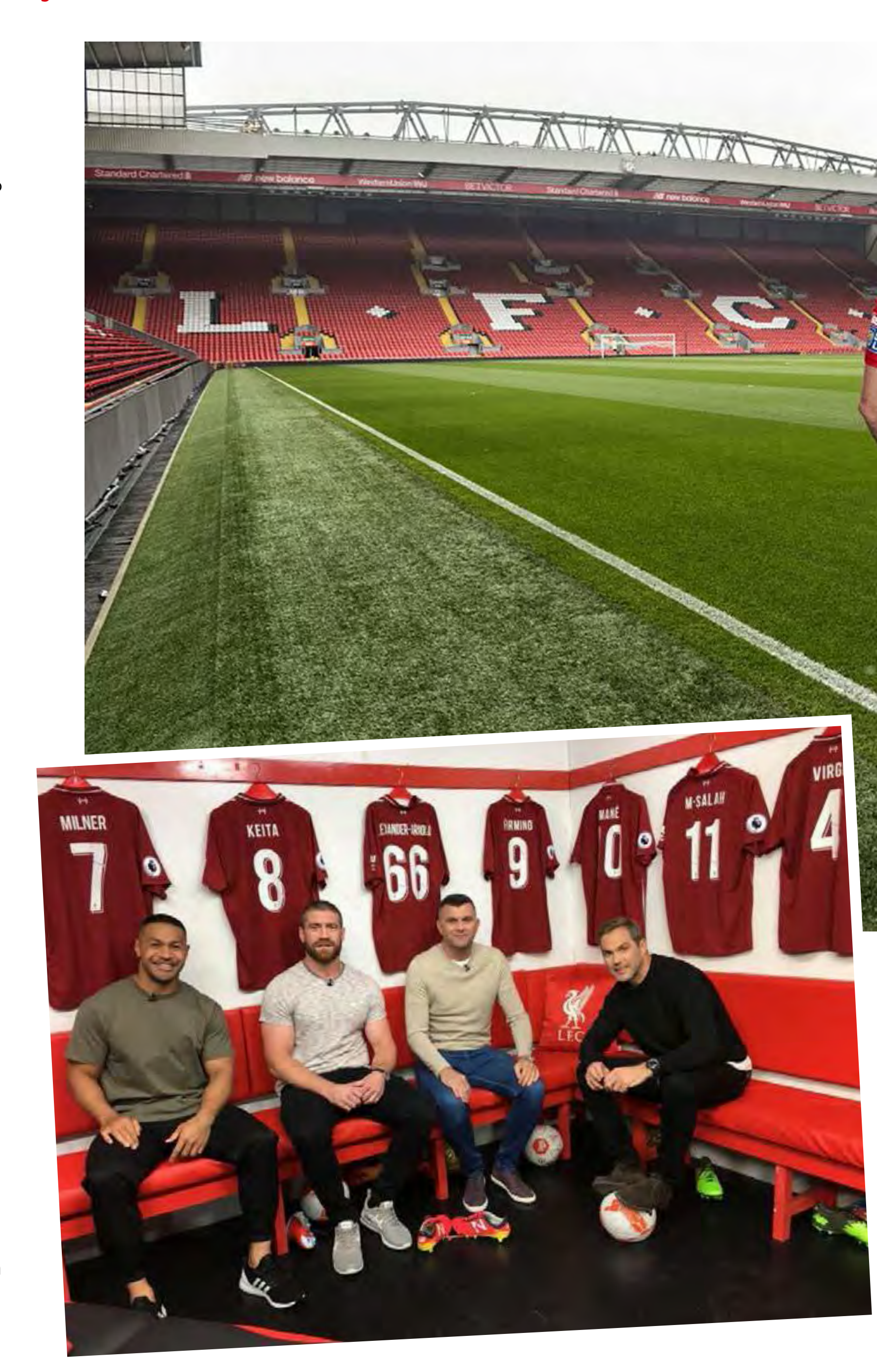
He loves Bobby Firmino and I bring him to games at Anfield sometimes. I told him I was going to play at Anfield and I think it went straight over his head, but it's a memory I want him to have and my wife and daughter will be there too.

How much football rivalry is there between the lads in the Saints dressing-room?

Paul Wellens, who used to play for Saints and is now on the coaching staff, is a die-hard Man City fan. He's loving it at the minute but went a bit quiet after they went out of the Champions League! I think he's influenced our coach, Justin Holbrook, to support City as well, although he's just a sports nut.

Louie McCarthy-Scarsbrook loves his football, but sadly for him he's a Millwall fan, and we've got Tommy Makinson and Danny Richardson who support Man United. Then we've got the Aussie lads who don't know who to support when they get here.

Zeb Taia changes his mind like the wind. He was an Arsenal fan, then it was Juventus and I think he's now come back to Liverpool. Joseph Paulo has been to a couple of Liverpool games so I'm working on him, but he's friends with Brighton keeper Mat Ryan so he's been down there to watch them. It's funny, though, because as soon as the Aussie blokes get here everyone is straight into them trying to get them to support their team!





If Saints had a football team who would be the best player and who would be the worst?

I'd probably be the worst! When we get the football out at training the lads love watching me having a kickabout. In my head I'm fantastic, when it comes to actually doing it I'm not so good!

Tommy Makinson is a good footballer and so are Mark Percival and Danny Richardson, the lads with a kicking game. Those three would be our front-three, the St Helens Salah, Mane and Firmino!

How much have you enjoyed the season as a Liverpool supporter?

I've loved it and I love everything about what Jürgen Klopp has done. Over the last couple of years it has been similar to what our coach, Justin Holbrook, has done here in terms of where both clubs have gone from to where we are now.

We play all-out attacking styles, we love scoring and it's all built on hard work. The way Liverpool press teams down is fantastic and my favourite player is Andy Robertson. I love the amount of work he gets through, he's been phenomenal.

Finally, the hardest question – would you rather Saints won Super League and the Challenge Cup or Liverpool won the Premier League and Champions League?

Oh come on! That's too hard to answer!



Fair enough! How does it differ then, wanting the team you play for to be successful and the team you support to do well?

As a professional sportsman you're different when you're a fan of another club in another sport. If a team loses some fans will fly off the handle and say the players don't care, but I know how gutted they will be because nobody crosses the line not wanting to put a performance in.

I believe Liverpool deserve to be champions this season, but if Man City get it then fair play, they will have deserved it. I'd be delighted if we won the Premier League or the Champions League because I can see how much hard work Klopp and his players have put in and I know the effort and sacrifice it takes to win a trophy.

When Saints win I'm obviously happy because rugby league is my job, my livelihood and my passion. I don't want to come across as comparing Saints to Liverpool because we play very different sports, but I do think we are both clubs building towards, dare I say it, dynasties.

If you look at the age of Liverpool's team and the age of our team and how both teams have come close to success – we fell short in two semi-finals, Liverpool lost the Champions League final – it feels like we are both just waiting to make that next step.

The building blocks are underneath both clubs to achieve things and sometimes all it takes is one trophy to kick a period of success off.







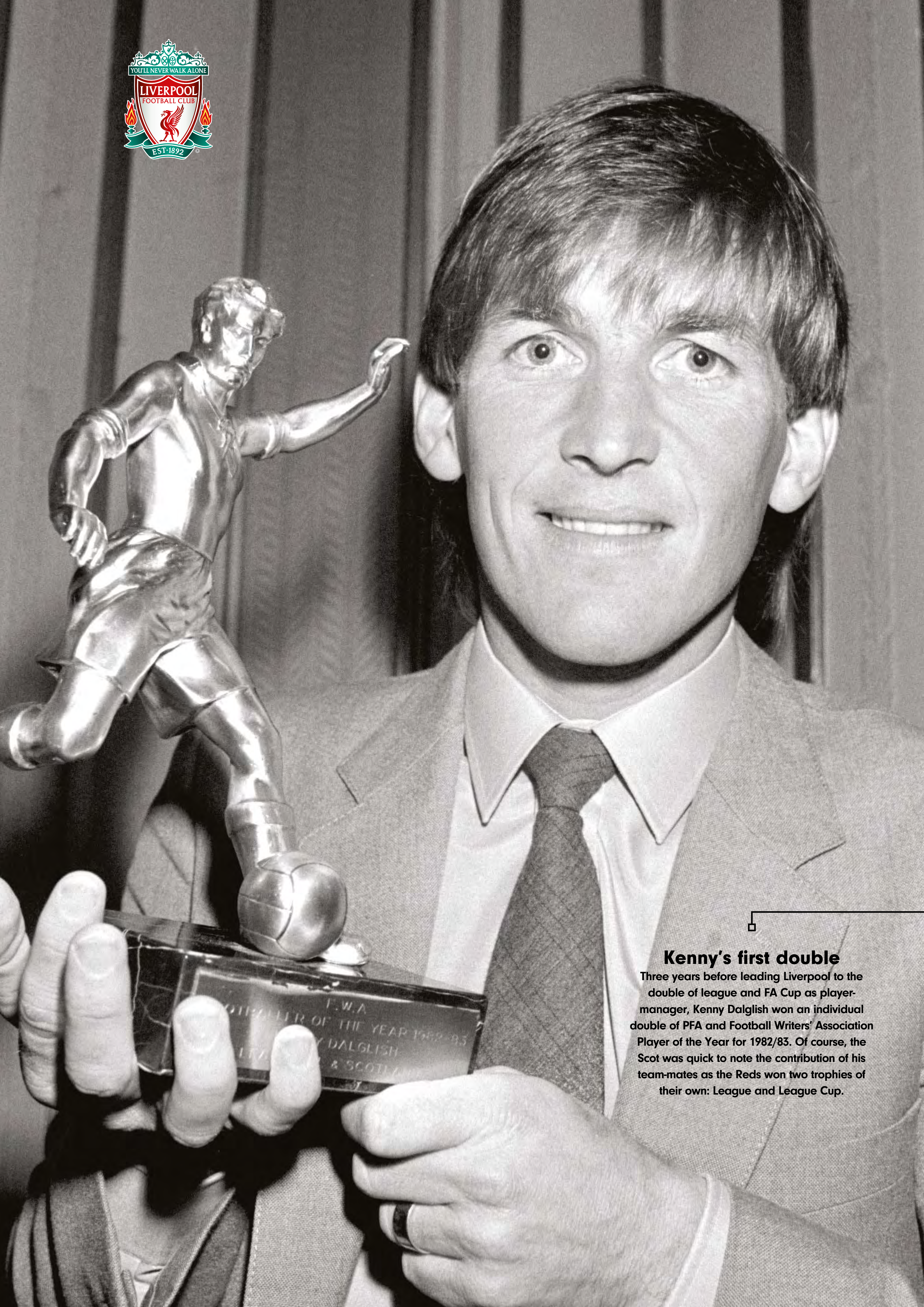
MAGIC WEEKEND FIXTURES

Saturday 25 May
Wakefield Trinity v Catalan Dragons (2pm)
Hull FC v Huddersfield Giants (4.30pm)
Wigan Warriors v Warrington Wolves (7pm)

Sunday 26 May
Salford Red Devils v Hull KR (1pm)
Leeds Rhinos v London Broncos (3.30pm)
St Helens v Castleford Tigers (6pm)

Tickets priced from £25. Visit superleague.co.uk/tickets

Interview: Chris McLoughlin



Kenny's first double

Three years before leading Liverpool to the double of league and FA Cup as player-manager, Kenny Dalglish won an individual double of PFA and Football Writers' Association Player of the Year for 1982/83. Of course, the Scot was quick to note the contribution of his team-mates as the Reds won two trophies of their own: League and League Cup.



ELECTRIC YOUTH

Liverpool's Under-18s land some lovely silverware after beating Manchester City down the other end of the East Lancs in a compelling final

Liverpool Under-18s are FA Youth Cup champions for 2018/19! The young Reds completed a fine campaign which had seen the overcome Portsmouth, Accrington Stanley, Wigan, Bury and Watford by beating Manchester City in the final at the Academy Stadium, located in the shadows of the Etihad.

After a tense clash ended in a 1-1 draw and extra-time could not separate the sides, the Reds triumphed 5-3 on penalties with the shoot-out success enabling the club to lift the trophy for the fourth time.

City had enjoyed the lion's share of possession during the opening 45 minutes without really testing Liverpool's Czech keeper Vitezslav Jaros. Barry Lewtas's team also had their own chances with left-back Yasser Larouci going close with a long-range strike and midfielder Jake Cain seeing an effort cleared off the line after he had beaten City keeper Louie Moulden.

But City took the lead in first-half injury-time when striker Nabil Touaizi steered home a precise finish after being cleverly picked out by winger Adrian Bernabe.

Liverpool improved after the break and had City pinned back for much of the closing stages as they went in search of an equaliser.

There were only four minutes remaining when centre-forward Bobby Duncan picked the ball up just inside the City half and scampered forward before hitting a swerving left-footed strike from outside the penalty box that was too much for Moulden to keep out. It was his 30th goal of the season for the Under-18s.

With no goals forthcoming in the added 30 minutes, the game went to penalties with Liverpool looking to banish the memory of a shoot-out defeat at Dinamo Zagreb in the last 16 of the UEFA Youth League back in March.

The quality of the penalties was excellent but Cole Palmer

Words: William Hughes



Academy director Alex Inglethorpe (centre) talks to the players on the pitch









HOW THE CUP WAS WON

Round 3 Portsmouth (H) 3-2 Duncan 2, Sharif
Round 4 Accrington Stanley (H) 4-0 Glatzel 3, Williams
Round 5 Wigan Athletic (H) 2-0 Glatzel, Duncan
Round 6 Bury (A) 5-1 Glatzel 2, Duncan, Williams, Cain
Semi-final Watford (H) 2-1 Glatzel 2
Final Man City (A) 1-1 Duncan (won 5-3 on penalties)

LFC'S PREVIOUS FA YOUTH CUP FINAL WINS

1995/96 4-1 v West Ham on aggregate
2005/06 3-2 v Man City on aggregate
2006/07 2-2 v Man United on aggregate (won 4-3 on penalties)


Jake Cain and Remy Savage

missed City's second spot-kick, firing against the underside of the bar. Liverpool converted their first four penalties with Neco Williams, Elijah Dixon-Bonner, Abdi Sharif and Jack Bearne all slotting home, meaning captain Paul Glatzel had the chance to win it with the Reds' fifth attempt.

Glatzel, who had scored eight goals in the tournament on the way to the final, fired high into the top-right corner of Moulden's net to tee up jubilant scenes as the young Reds celebrated their 5-3 shoot-out success.

Afterwards Lewtas spoke of his delight for the team. "I'm proud of them and made-up. They've been brilliant since day one when I started working with them and probably met them as 14-year-olds and, for some of them, even younger. They've never given me anything less than that. Even when times have got tough, they've always dug in.

"I thought Manchester City were excellent in the first half. I could pick holes in our performance, but I'd be doing them a disservice. I thought they were excellent. They were probably the first team who have played through us like that. I thought they were really good and well-organised.

"In the second-half we just got closer to them. We tweaked a few things, we wanted to make the boys feel a bit more comfortable being out of possession. But when we got it, we had to keep the ball better and I think we did in the second half.

"Obviously we got the goal and from there it was survival of the fittest, injury-time, penalties. That's the way it goes."

And Lewtas, who took over from Steven Gerrard as Liverpool's Under-18s manager last summer, admitted that he could hardly bare to watch the shoot-out!

"I'm going to be honest, I watched one and then didn't watch any of the others," he said. "The lads can tell me where they put it, they can say what they want! I'm not one for penalties, so in the end Scott [Mason, U18s performance analyst] told me

Rhys Williams



The coach takes a closer look

they were crackers. As long as they hit the net, I was fine! It was really good."

Centre-back Rhys Williams, who signed his first professional contract with the Reds earlier this year, said: "We are over the moon. It's been ten years since we got to a final but to get here and win it against such a good team, shows our character.

"The desire we have got as a team with the quality upfront is what we are about. You look at Bobby [Duncan] who hasn't had a sniff all game and he gets that one chance and scores, it shows the quality in this team."

Liverpool dedicated the victory to Stephen Darby after the former Red was forced to retire earlier this season.

Stephen came through the ranks at the Kirkby Academy and went on to lift two Youth Cups with Liverpool, winning finals against Manchester United and Manchester City.

The 30-year-old retired from the game last autumn while at Bolton Wanderers after revealing a recent diagnosis with motor neurone disease. He has since set up a Motor Neurone Disease Foundation to raise funds and awareness about the condition.

LFC Academy director Alex Inglethorpe said: "Stephen was very much in our thoughts this week. He played in our last Youth Cup winning team in 2007 and captained the team to victory in 2006.

"He's one of us and a huge part of our history as an Academy."



Bobby Duncan and Paul Glatzel with club photographer Nick Taylor

I'M PROUD OF THE LADS AND MADE-UP FOR ALL OF THEM, THEY'VE BEEN BRILLIANT SINCE DAY ONE WHEN I STARTED WORKING WITH THEM – THEY'VE NEVER GIVEN LESS THAN EVERYTHING AND EVEN WHEN TIMES HAVE GOT TOUGH THEY'VE ALWAYS DUG IN

“LEARNING TO PLAY THE LIVERPOOL WAY MEANS EVERYTHING”

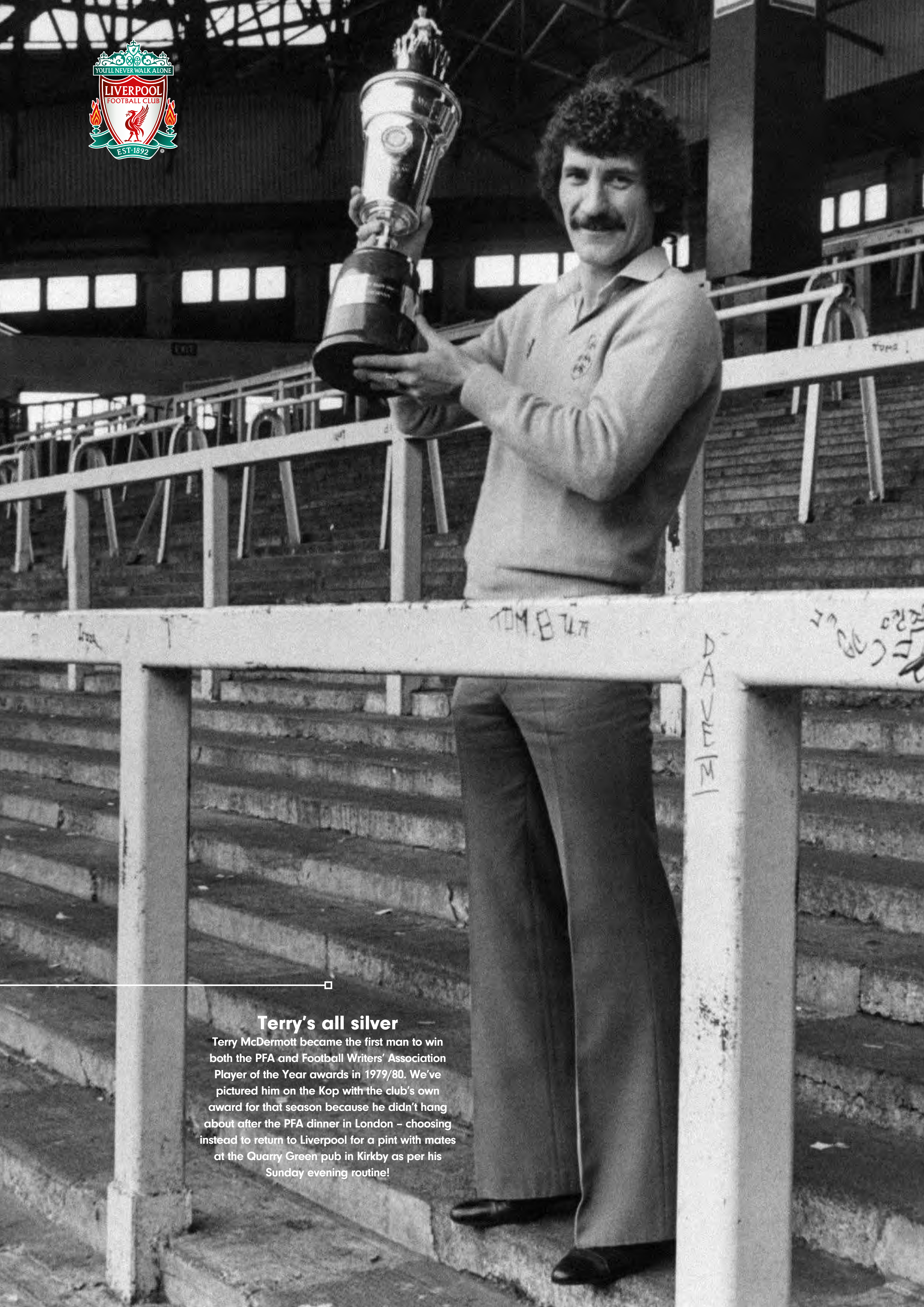
Charlie, Aged 11



Based at The Academy in Kirkby, young Reds can learn to play The Liverpool Way during the school holidays, all under the guidance of LFC coaches.

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Terry's all silver

Terry McDermott became the first man to win both the PFA and Football Writers' Association Player of the Year awards in 1979/80. We've pictured him on the Kop with the club's own award for that season because he didn't hang about after the PFA dinner in London – choosing instead to return to Liverpool for a pint with mates at the Quarry Green pub in Kirkby as per his Sunday evening routine!

Getting to Anfield

Public transport: the quick and convenient way to the match

Get the bus

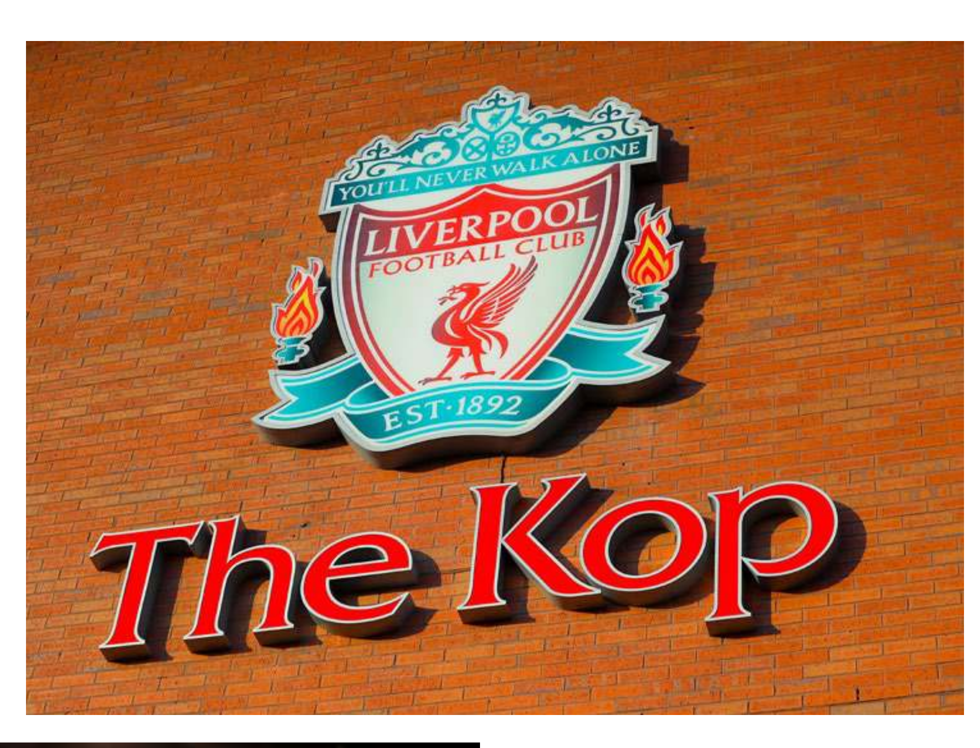
On matchday the 917 express bus runs direct from Liverpool city centre to Anfield every 10 minutes. There is a discounted ticket price of £4, with fans receiving a discount on soft drinks at LFC kiosks within the stadium on presentation of their return-ticket.

The Soccerbus will be operating three hours prior to kick-off and up to 90 minutes after the final whistle. A new family ticket (two adults + two children) is available for £7 and a group ticket (four adults) for £10. Soccerbus tickets can now be bought at any rail station by asking for a 'plus Anfield/Goodison' ticket.

Other bus services include the 26 and 27 from LiverpoolONE station and 17 from Queen Square. The 68/168, which operates between Bootle and Aigburth, and the 14 and 19 (from Queen Square) stop a short walk from the ground.

The 501 football service operates direct to Lime Street from Walton Lane for up to two hours after the final whistle. Adult £2, children £1.

The 502 also runs two journeys from Anfield after each home game to Lime Street.



Trains and automobiles

Lime Street is two miles from Anfield and taxi fares usually cost £7-9, or buses go from nearby Queen Square. Merseyrail runs from town to Sandhills station from where matchday passengers can use the Soccerbus.

Back of the cab

Taxi pick-up points are available outside of the stadium and on major routes. Taxi One operates a taxi-bus service from St Johns Lane, Liverpool city centre, direct to Anfield. A frequent service operates from three hours prior to kick off. Taxi One return-service operates from the corner of Anfield Road/Sleepers Hill opposite the Isla Gladstone conservatory back to the city-centre.

On your bike!

The free LFC Cycle Hub will be located on Anfield Road for the 2018/19 season, allowing fans who cycle to the game to park their bikes safely and securely with an attendant.

Walk on

Walking routes are signposted from Lime Street, Sandhills and Kirkdale stations to assist fans who travel to the game using local rail services.

Get there early!

Avoid the crowds and get to Anfield early to enjoy the Fan Zones, located in Paisley Square and Anfield Road and open four hours before kick-off – ideal for meeting before the game to soak up the atmosphere.

For more advice please visit www.liverpoolfc.com/gettingtoanfield

ANFIELD MATCHDAY TRANSPORT PLAN 2018/19 SEASON



RED AND WRITE!

LFC ace Joel goes in the book – but don't worry, it's all for a great cause – as poetry pupils enjoy fab Anfield day out

Liverpool defender Joel Matip joined Red Neighbours and LFC Foundation recently for a special literacy event at Anfield in celebration of World Book Day.

Five hundred pupils from 12 local schools took part in a series of educational workshops led by author Ben Lyttleton and illustrator Spike Gerrell, the creators of the Football School book series.

"We are passionate about helping children develop a love of reading and a curiosity about the world," said Ben. "Today showed that football can be the perfect gateway to engage children in learning subjects across the curriculum.

"It was inspiring to work with our friends at LFC Foundation and Red Neighbours, and big thanks to Mighty Red and Joel Matip for supporting us!"

The pupils enjoyed an interactive assembly which explored the principles of 'Football School' and offered the chance to win some exciting prizes, before engaging in group activities to develop their creativity and imagination.



The event was supported by LFC Foundation's Primary Stars programme and demonstrates Red Neighbours' commitment to creating memorable experiences for young people in L4, L5 and L6.

Meanwhile pupils from a Liverpool primary school have been named as national winners of the Premier League Writing Stars Key Stage 1 poetry competition.

St Finbar's poem Being Different was chosen from over 1,200 entries by a judging panel which included Children's Laureate Lauren Child, singer-songwriter Olly Murs, former Premier League footballer Rio Ferdinand and poet Joseph Coelho.

To mark their impressive achievement, LFC Foundation invited the youngsters to the Legends game against Milan Glorie and for a private tour of Anfield where they were presented with framed copies of their work.

As national winners, the children will also have their poem read aloud by one of the star judges, take part in a poetry workshop led by Joseph Coelho and have the Premier League trophy brought to their school. A limited-edition Writing Stars poetry book, featuring the submissions of all regional winners, will also be released in 2019.

Themed this year on diversity, the Premier League Primary Stars poetry competition encourages children to explore their creativity through writing and forms part of the wider Premier League Primary Stars programme run by the LFC Foundation.

The initiative uses the appeal of the Premier League and professional football clubs to inspire children to learn, be active and develop important life-skills.

At Liverpool FC we are passionate about our community and our official charity LFC Foundation delivers programmes and partnerships to create life-changing opportunities for children and young people. We also work with local residents, community groups and schools in the Anfield area, as part of our Red Neighbours programme, focusing on the key issues of food poverty and education, the elderly, getting the community physically-active and creating memorable experiences for youngsters.




BV
BETVICTOR




Origi
WIJNALDUM
5
M.SALAH
11


Mané
MANÉ
10
Virgil
VIRGIL
Fabinho
FABINHO
3
Milner
MILNER
7















HURRAY FOR HALF-TERM!

How the recent school-break was also a chance for Liverpool Football Club to keep local kids entertained and active



Over 160 local youngsters attended LFC Foundation sports and activity camps and across Liverpool during Easter half-term.

One at Anfield Sports & Community Centre, funded by the James Milner Foundation, saw 75 participants from the L4, L5 and L6 areas enjoy three days of fun including dodgeball, cricket, hockey, rugby and bubble football.

Drug and alcohol-awareness workshops were also delivered as a new educational addition to the activity schedule.

Football camps for over 80 youngsters also took place at Rainhill High School and Netherton Activity Centre, and participants from LFC Foundation's Premier League Kicks Football+ programme enjoyed workshops focusing on team-building, outdoor adventure and healthy-eating and nutrition.

The youngsters also received guidance and information on road-safety, courtesy of Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service, and took part in a drug-awareness course run by Young Addaction.

Meanwhile Red Neighbours hosted hundreds of local families at Anfield over Easter for the return of half-term breakfast clubs – all part of a focus on food-poverty and education and creating memorable experiences for young people.

Club chaplain and Red Neighbours team member Bill Bygroves said: "The half-term breakfast clubs are a great way to bring together local families here at Anfield.

"Breakfast is such an important part of the day for these kids and it's great to see them eating with their families and enjoying themselves throughout the half-term."













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What's On

MAY/JUNE



ARE YOU READY?

Fasten your seatbelts and hold on to your hats for a tantalising final month of the season with the Reds targeting glory in both the Premier League and UEFA Champions League.

A thrilling conclusion lies in wait with Liverpool's final two fixtures of their best-ever Premier League campaign taking them to Newcastle United's St James' Park for a Saturday 7.45pm kick-off on 4 May before the final chapter of a remarkable league campaign plays out at Anfield when Wolverhampton Wanderers are the visitors on Sunday 12 May.

Between those two fixtures is the small matter of a Champions League semi-final against FC Barcelona with former favourites Luis Suarez and Philippe Coutinho set to return to L4 with Ernesto Valverde's Blaugrana.

Should Jürgen Klopp's men overcome their Catalan opponents, they will be able to look forward to a second successive Champions League final on 1 June. In that scenario, they would face Tottenham Hotspur or Ajax at the Wanda Metropolitano. Home to Atletico Madrid since 2017, the 67,829-capacity stadium is located the San Blas-Canillejas district to the east of the city-centre.



MAY/JUNE

What's On

A KIT FOR BOB

Liverpool FC's 2019/20 New Balance home kit goes on sale on Thursday 9 May. The Reds' home kit for next season pays homage to the legendary Bob Paisley, the most successful manager in the club's history, in the year of the 100th anniversary of his birth.

In special tribute to Paisley's remarkable LFC legacy, each jersey is inscribed with his signature on the inside of the neck and also includes a 'swing tag' dedicated to his incredible achievements. Retaining the popular deeper-red shade of recent years, the home shirt features stylish white pinstripes inspired by the 1982/83 campaign that saw Liverpool clinch a 14th league title in Paisley's final season at the helm.

It can be pre-ordered from store.liverpoolfc.com. Fans pre-ordering an adult or junior shirt, baby or mini-kit now and receive a £10 LFC retail voucher to spend from 1 to 30 June.



ALL THOSE YEARS AGO...

14 years since the Miracle of Istanbul, against Milan, on 25/26 May 2005.
38 years since Alan Kennedy gave us European Cup no3 on 27 May 1981.
41 years since the Reds claimed their second European Cup on 10 May 1978.
42 years since Liverpool lifted the European Cup for the first time on 25 May 1977.
127 years since Liverpool Football Club was born on 3 June 1892.

And it's 35 years since Liverpool claimed their fourth European Cup on 30 May 1984.

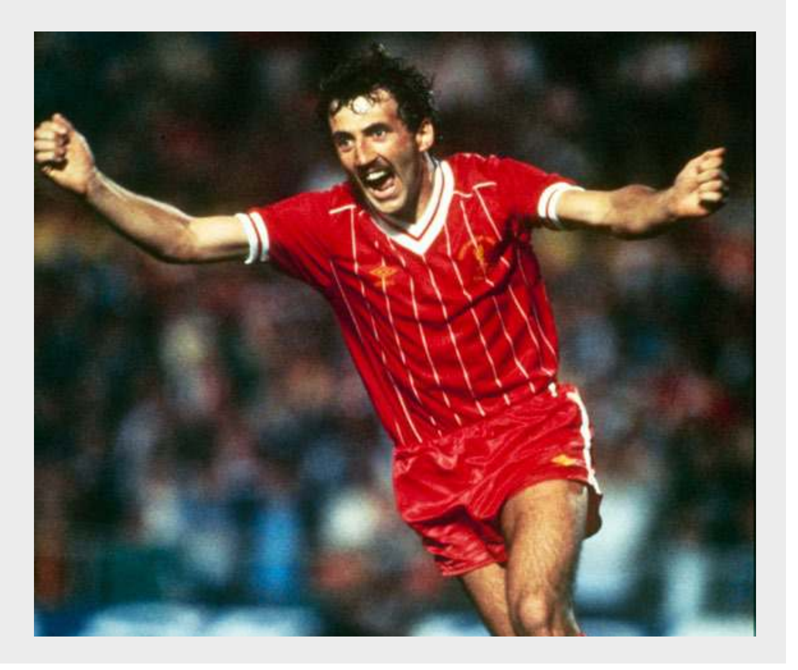
Liverpool couldn't have been more relaxed ahead of playing AS Roma in their own backyard. From the players singing Chris Rea's I Don't Know What It Is But I Love It in the tunnel ahead of kick-off at the Olympic Stadium to Phil Neal stroking the Reds into a 14th minute lead, Liverpool exuded an air of calm in front of the crowd of 70,000 in the Italian capital.

Roberto Pruzzo equalised a minute before half-time and the game eventually went to penalties.

Steve Nicol went first from 12 yards and fired over the bar. However, Reds keeper Bruce Grobbelaar's 'spaghetti legs' routine worked a treat as Italian internationals Bruno Conti and Francesco Graziani missed their kicks meaning Alan Kennedy stepped forward with the chance of scoring the winning goal in a European Cup final for the second time in four years.

Despite the reservations of some of his team-mates, the no3 fired his effort past Roma keeper Franco Tancredi to start the celebrations off in earnest as Graeme Souness lifted the club's fourth European Cup.

"We were so bad [at penalties] the week before that we had to abandon the practice," Kennedy recalled. "Afterwards all the players were telling me, 'We can't believe you scored that goal', but I did and we had a great celebration."



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Annabel Blanchard
18 on 7 May

Yana Daniels
27 on 8 May

Adam Lallana
31 on 10 May

Howard Gayle
61 on 18 May

Jimmy Case
65 on 18 May

Rafa Camacho
19 on 22 May



Pedro Chirivella
22 on 23 May

Joe Gomez
22 on 23 May

Vladimir Smicer
46 on 24 May

Steven Gerrard
39 on 30 May

Ian St John
81 on 7 June

Javier Mascherano
35 on 8 June

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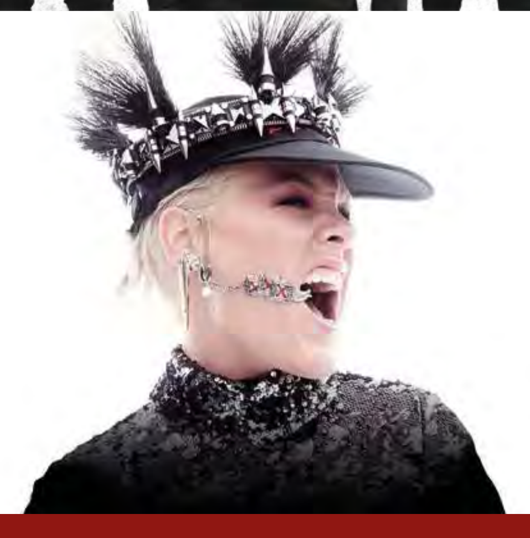
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AUGUST

		SCORE/KO	TV	SCORERS
12	**West Ham United (H)**	**4-0**	**sky**	**Mane 2, Salah, Sturridge**
20	Crystal Palace (A)	2-0	sky	Milner (pen), Mane
25	**Brighton and Hove Albion (H)**	**1-0**	**BT**	**Salah**

SEPTEMBER

1	Leicester City (A)	2-1	sky	Mane, Firmino
15	Tottenham Hotspur (A)	2-1	sky	Wijnaldum, Firmino
18	**Paris St-Germain (UCL, H)**	**3-2**	**BT**	**Sturridge, Milner (pen), Firmino**
22	**Southampton (H)**	**3-0**		**Hoedt (og), Matip, Salah**
26	**Chelsea (CC3, H)**	**1-2**	**sky**	**Sturridge**
29	Chelsea (A)	1-1	BT	Sturridge

OCTOBER

3	Napoli (UCL, A)	0-1	BT	
7	**Manchester City (H)**	**0-0**	**sky**	
20	Huddersfield Town (A)	1-0	BT	Salah
24	**Red Star Belgrade (UCL, H)**	**4-0**	**BT**	**Firmino, Salah 2 (1 pen), Mane**
27	**Cardiff City (H)**	**4-1**		**Salah, Mane 2, Shaqiri**

NOVEMBER

3	Arsenal (A)	1-1	BT	Milner
6	Red Star Belgrade (UCL, A)	0-2	BT	
11	**Fulham (H)**	**2-0**	**BT**	**Salah, Shaqiri**
24	Watford (A)	3-0		Salah, Alexander-Arnold, Firmino
28	Paris St-Germain (UCL, A)	1-2	BT	Milner (pen)

DECEMBER

2	**Everton (H)**	**1-0**	**sky**	**Origi**
5	Burnley (A)	3-1		Milner, Firmino, Shaqiri
8	Bournemouth (A)	4-0	sky	Salah 3, Cook (og)
11	**Napoli (UCL, H)**	**1-0**	**BT**	**Salah**
16	**Manchester United (H)**	**3-1**	**sky**	**Mane, Shaqiri 2**
21	Wolverhampton Wanderers (A)	2-0	sky	Salah, Van Dijk
26	**Newcastle United (H)**	**4-0**		**Lovren, Salah (pen), Shaqiri, Fabinho**
29	**Arsenal (H)**	**5-1**	**BT**	**Firmino 3 (1 pen), Mane, Salah (pen)**

JANUARY

3	Manchester City (A)	1-2	sky	Firmino
7	Wolverhampton W (FA Cup 3, A)	1-2	BBC	Origi
12	Brighton and Hove Albion (A)	1-0		Salah (pen)
19	**Crystal Palace (H)**	**4-3**		**Salah 2, Firmino, Mane**
30	**Leicester City (H)**	**1-1**	**BT**	**Mane**

FEBRUARY

4	West Ham United (A)	1-1	sky	Mane
9	**Bournemouth (H)**	**3-0**		**Mane, Wijnaldum, Salah**
19	**Bayern Munich (UCL R16 1, H)**	**0-0**	**BT**	
24	Manchester United (A)	0-0	sky	
27	**Watford (H)**	**5-0**		**Mane 2, Origi, Van Dijk 2**

MARCH

3	Everton (A)	0-0	sky	
10	**Burnley (H)**	**4-2**	**BT**	**Firmino 2, Mane 2**
13	Bayern Munich (UCL R16 2, A)	3-1	BT	Mane 2, Van Dijk
17	Fulham (A)	2-1	sky	Mane, Milner (pen)
31	**Tottenham Hotspur (H)**	**2-1**	**sky**	**Firmino, Alderweireld (og)**

APRIL

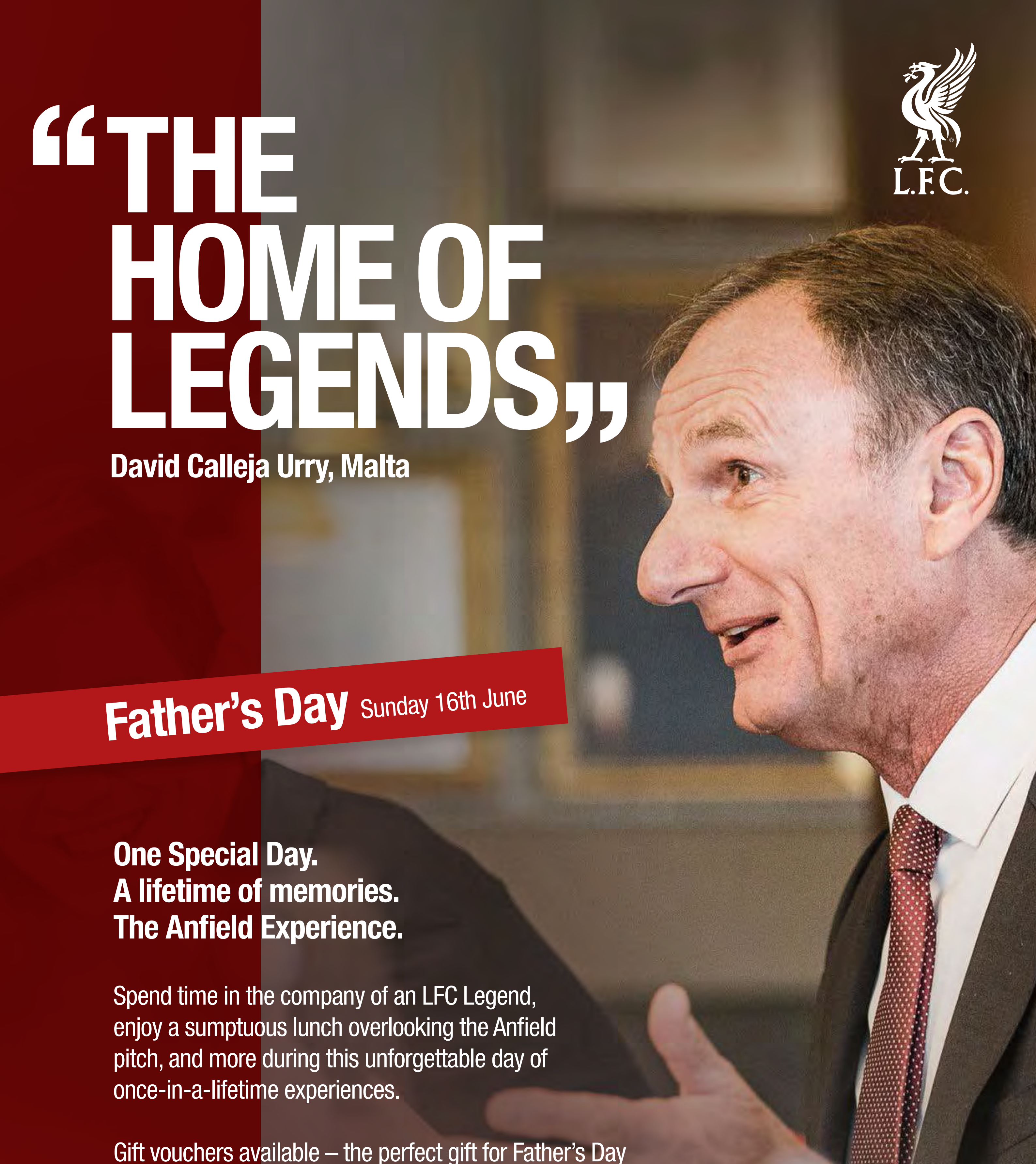
5	Southampton (A)	3-1	sky	Keita, Salah, Henderson
9	**FC Porto (UCL q-f 1, H)**	**2-0**	**BT**	**Keita, Firmino**
14	**Chelsea (H)**	**2-0**	**sky**	**Mane, Salah**
17	FC Porto (UCL q-f 2, A)	4-1	BT	Mane, Salah, Firmino, Van Dijk
21	Cardiff City (A)	2-0	sky	Wijnaldum, Milner (pen)
26	**Huddersfield Town (H)**	**5-0**	**sky**	**Keita, Mane 2, Salah 2**

MAY

1	FC Barcelona (UCL s-f 1, A)	8pm	BT	
4	Newcastle United (A)	7.45pm	sky	
7	**FC Barcelona (UCL s-f 2, H)**	**8pm**	**BT**	
12	**Wolverhampton Wanderers (H)**	**3pm**		

JUNE

1	UCL final			



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NEIL MELLOR

Congratulations to our FA Youth Cup winners – but now the hard work starts, lads!

The FA Youth Cup is the biggest tournament any young footballer plays in at youth level. At that age it is your first real experience of a high pressure situation – the pressure to win a big game that you will need to deal with regularly if you have a professional career.

Playing in the Youth Cup is prestigious. It's a different platform where, if you stand out, you can get yourself noticed by the first-team staff a lot more.

I feel all Youth Cup games should be at first-team grounds and it didn't make a great deal of sense to hold the final at Man City's Academy Stadium. It wasn't the Etihad and it wasn't a neutral venue. I attended the match and it felt like an away game for Liverpool rather than a final so it is a credit to the players that they went on to win on penalties.

They showed they can handle something that had gone against them and winning a trophy is reward for their efforts this season. It will also help them to understand that, if they want to represent Liverpool Football Club, they have to win things.

I only reached the semi-final of the Youth Cup. Winning it is very hard to achieve, but it doesn't necessarily follow that members of a winning team will play at the top level.

Jamie Carragher and Michael Owen were the only members of our 1996 Youth Cup winning team that had first-team careers, Jay Spearing was the only member of the 2006 and 2007 teams who played regularly for the first-team. It's going to be very tough for any of our 2019 winners to follow in their footsteps and there is a lot of hard work ahead if they are going to have a career in the game let alone play for Liverpool.

Any career in the game is a huge success for a youth-team player. A career at Liverpool is the ultimate. In recent times players such as Trent Alexander-Arnold have had no real success in the tournament but have gone on to achieve the ultimate goal of playing for Liverpool's first-team. Trent is someone the players must aspire to follow.

Because of the goals they have scored a lot of focus has been on strikers Paul Glatzel and Bobby Duncan. Both are outstanding talents but attitude will be very important if they're going to make it at the top level or lower down.

Glatzel has taken on the responsibility as captain, which isn't easy as it can take a little bit away from your instinct as a centre-forward. It's an added pressure I feel centre-forwards don't need, but he's proved he is a team-player by not just scoring goals but providing plenty of assists.

Bobby Duncan is a goalscorer. I thought he was quiet for his standards in the Youth Cup final but you can't take players like him off because – as he proved with the equalising goal – he can produce that moment of quality when it matters.

There were many games when I didn't play well but scored and Bobby has that about him. I saw the semi-final against Watford and I like how he tried to claim one of Glatzel's goals. I was really upset and angry if I left a football pitch having not scored a goal and I can tell Bobby Duncan is the same. He has a hunger to score goals and I really like that state of mind.

Experiences such as winning the Youth Cup are valuable for a young player. In a career as a footballer you have lots of highs and lots of lows – it's how you respond to both that makes or breaks you.

It's brilliant that Liverpool Under-18s have won the Youth Cup, but how do they respond? Do they think they've cracked it? Or do they think this is just the starting point of what they want to achieve?

They need to keep listening to the coaches to maintain their progression, dedicate themselves to Liverpool Football Club and ignore outside influences such as agents and hangers-on that want to be around footballers.

Being outstanding for the Under-18s means nothing. They've now got to prove themselves for the Under-23s, be consistent at a higher level and impress the first-team staff if they get a chance at Melwood to keep their dreams of playing first-team football for Liverpool FC alive.



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